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The Children's Newspaper, Week Ending March 14, 1959

SEEING SPORT—*See page 6*

Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Fourpence | FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE | No. 2086, March 14, 1959

JUNIOR STAMP CHAMPION

Friday will be a great day for young John Swanborough

JOHN SWANBOROUGH is not superstitious. But even if he were he would still think of Friday the Thirteenth as a great day in his life. For on Friday the Thirteenth this 14-year-old Chippenham schoolboy will be coming to London to be officially proclaimed the C N Junior Stamp Champion.

John will be at the Central Hall, Westminster, to see the official opening of the National Stamp Exhibition by the Solicitor-General, the Rt. Hon. Sir Harry Hylton-Foster. He will afterwards be presented with a personal memento of the occasion; and he will also have the personal satisfaction of seeing nine pages of his stamp collection holding an honoured place among displays from more than 50 British philatelic societies and distinguished private collectors, and the stands of 40 dealers and 12 foreign governments. Yes, Friday the Thirteenth will certainly be a great day for John Swanborough!

What does it feel like to be a stamp champion? "Tremendously exciting," he told a C N correspondent who visited him at his home the other day. "Some of my friends in the local philatelic society thought I had a pretty good chance of winning, but I was not so sure. For one thing, my collection was not complete—I was in the middle of transferring from one album to another."



John Swanborough at home with his collection

John has four books of stamps, two display albums—which he entered in the competition—and two "stock books." Although he collects any stamps he can get hold of, John is like all experts in specialising in the stamps of one particular country or group of countries.

These are the stamps in John's display albums. One contains nearly 1000 stamps of Britain; the other contains Commonwealth stamps, in particular those of Australia, New Zealand, and the Falkland Island Dependencies. He needs only a few more to make his collection of Falkland Islands stamps absolutely complete.

John Swanborough's stock books contain about 3000 stamps from all over the world; when he has acquired all the "reasonably-priced" stamps of his "specialist countries," these stock books form the basis of a new collection which is then transferred to a display album.

"I spend most of my pocket-money on stamps," admitted John. "And any money I get on birthdays and at Christmas, too."

During the summer holidays John usually works on his uncle's farm in Wales and the money he gets for helping all goes on his collection. And if father or mother are thinking of giving him a present for any reason, what better gift than a new stamp?

However, it is not the value of his albums but neatness and presentation which has won for John the title of Junior Stamp Champion. From just a glance at his albums even an inexpert eye can see why he has been reckoned a champion.

Every page is neatly titled and immaculately laid out, each stamp being exactly in the centre of a ruled border, any notes about a stamp's special interest being carefully printed at the side. Every specimen is exactly in line with its neighbour.

Both albums testify to the care and attention which John lavishes on his hobby.

"How much time do you have to spend on them to reach this state of near-perfection?" I asked.

"It's difficult to say," replied John. "I can't do a lot during the week as I have nearly two hours' homework to get through every evening. During the week-ends I usually spend two or three hours working on them, but sometimes I may spend the whole day."

Yes, John takes his hobby seriously; and he also takes pride in being a member of the World Association of Young Stamp Collectors, which works for the cause of international friendship.

When he is able to work in the evening an enthusiastic helper is his father—"the junior partner," as Mrs. Swanborough calls him. It was father's collection, made when he was a boy, which formed the basis of John's albums when he first took an interest in stamps four years ago. And once John became an ardent collector Mr. Swanborough himself found his old enthusiasm returning.

"Now they sometimes spend a whole evening 'playing' with one stamp," says Mrs. Swanborough.

John's other hobby is woodwork, and he proudly showed me the miniature musical-box church which he and his father made between them.

HE WANTS TO BE A TEACHER

About the house are other objects which he has made in the woodwork and metalwork classes at the City of Bath Technical School, where, incidentally, he is top of his Form.

In fact, at the moment John thinks he would like to become a teacher in one of these subjects or in maths.

"Not a stamp dealer?"

"Oh no," said John. "Stamp collecting will always be just a hobby with me."

On Friday John and his parents will be the personal guests of the organisers of the Stamp Exhibition and a busy day is planned for them. What does John want to do? He did not hesitate for a moment.

"Why, tour round the exhibition!"

Of course! A young stamp enthusiast could hardly find a better way of spending a day in town.



Portrait of my Lord Mayor

Miss Irene Heath of Chelsea at work on her portrait of London's Lord Mayor, Sir Harold Gillett.

An old axe in the garden

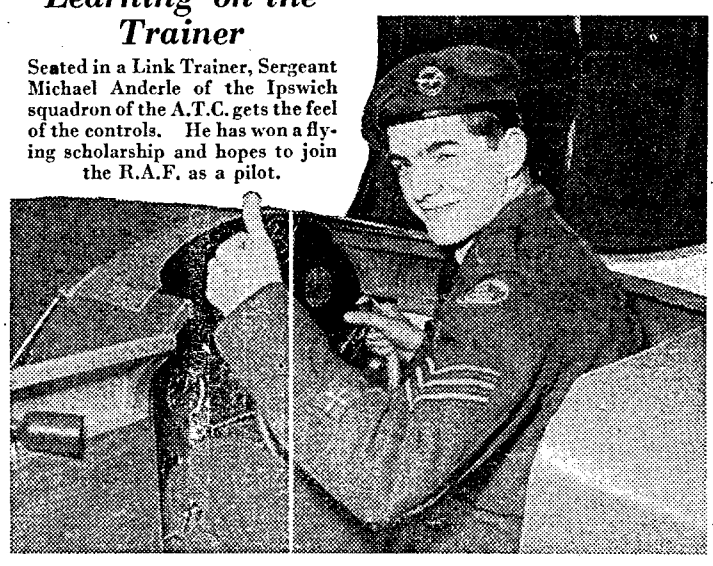
A jagged piece of flint which eleven-year-old Michael Hargrove found in his back garden at Bexleyheath, Kent, has been identified by the British Museum as a Neolithic axe head, worth over £50.

"I showed it to my form master," said Michael, "and he had it examined by the British Museum. They said it was a very important find."

Michael has given his axe head to Bexley Borough Museum on permanent loan, where it is now ranked as the most important of their Stone Age exhibits.

Learning on the Trainer

Seated in a Link Trainer, Sergeant Michael Anderle of the Ipswich squadron of the A.T.C. gets the feel of the controls. He has won a flying scholarship and hopes to join the R.A.F. as a pilot.



HELPING HANDS

Ask people to help and the result is often surprising. That is what Derby Borough Police found.

Some members of the force are good at repairing radio sets so they decided to collect a number of old ones, put them in order, and distribute them to elderly and lonely people. They issued an appeal for sets which they could deal with in this way.

But a few days later they had to make another appeal—"Please stop bringing us old and broken radios."

They had got 50 sets in almost immediate response.

Fossil collector

Clive Champion, a 14-year-old Derby schoolboy, likes collecting fossils, and he spends a lot of his time on field studies, including a recent eight-mile tramp in North Derbyshire. And this despite the fact that polio has affected his legs.

He has more than 300 examples of fossils from 60 different species, and his collection includes a shark's tooth that was found in Suffolk and shells from the Great Barrier Reef.

Clive has appeared in a B B C Children's Television programme with a display of part of his collection.

RINGING THE CHANGES

Led by 22-year-old Brenda Slark, a team of bell-ringers at the parish church, Eltham, Kent, recently rang Holt's Original Peal of Grandsire Triples, which includes 5040 changes. The whole peal lasted for nearly four hours.

Brenda's aim now is to maintain a good band of campanologists (bell-ringers) at Eltham and to experiment with harder peals.

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THE SHADOW OF UNEMPLOYMENT

By the C N Parliamentary Correspondent

THIS article is about *Work*. It is a subject on which there are many shades of opinion. There are some people, for instance, who hold the notion that work should be abolished altogether. But whatever our views, the plain truth is that most people in this world have to work in order to eat.

The trouble comes when men, for reasons over which they have no control, are deprived of the means to work. For instance, a rapid change from the use of coal to the use of oil for fuel, could cause unemployment for a time in the industries and trades connected with coal.

Most readers of C N have grown up since the war in an era of "full employment," for a working population of about 23 million. But early this year the official figure of people who could not get jobs was 620,000.

DANGER POINT

This was bad news, and although not unexpected it came as a shock. The reason is that economists define "full employment" as a condition in which not more than three per cent of the workers are unemployed. This three per cent can therefore be regarded as a danger-point.

Now we have reached 2.8 per cent. The figure of 620,000 includes workers in certain catering and luxury trades who work at holiday resorts in the summer months and "rest" in the winter.

Nevertheless, this high figure—the highest since the lack of fuel caused many factories to close down in the bad winter of twelve years ago—causes concern. We hear of some school-leavers who cannot get jobs, and that unemployment is showing itself most in Wales, Scotland, and northern England.

It was in just those areas that much suffering was endured in the 'twenties and 'thirties. At its peak in the 'thirties, unemployment stood at three million, and at that time there was a much smaller working population.

BAD OLD DAYS

Within the experience of the writer in those bad days, there were men who had not worked for more than twelve years and young people, well over 20, who had never had the chance to work. This is what Mr. Macmillan and Mr. Gaitskell mean when they say this must never happen again.

No doubt the present unemployment rate will fall in the next month or two. But the warning is there. None of us, younger or older, can or should be indifferent to the fact that "the other fellow" is out of work. We cannot just shrug it off.

Certainly one big mistake of the the days of the Great Depression of the 1930's has been put right. The State money paid out to maintain unemployed families—it was called "the dole"—was only a pittance by modern standards. Worse still, in some areas a lot of distress was caused by the way other forms of State aid were administered.

Now the rates of unemployment pay are more in keeping with the realities of the situation.

We must remember that "the other fellow's" unemployment affects us all. To take one simple example, if people have less to spend, the little shop around the corner will be the first to suffer.

What ought we to do about this? The first thing is to recognise that Britain, more than most countries, depends on exports, and with those exports we buy, from abroad, the large amount of food—about half our total consumption—which we cannot produce at home.

Jobs depend largely on how well we sell our exports, and how well we sell them depends in turn on how well we make them. We might go on to argue that the quality of our production in turn depends on the skill and enthusiasm with which we do our job.

PRIDE IN WORK

Right from our schooldays and all the way up through life, the skill and enthusiasm with which we do our work *counts*. It counts whether we work in a shop or an an office, or for a Government department, or whether we make export goods in the great manufacturing industries on which our prosperity depends.

It is broadly true that a man or woman who takes a constant pride in work and regards it as a contribution to social service will rarely lack a job.

But there are exceptions to this. That is why whatever Government we have now regards it as a first priority to see that the means of work are provided wherever unemployment shows itself.



Meeting the giant

An astonishing sight was seen in Manchester when Ted Bailey, the "stilt-walking magician," stopped to ask a little girl the way.

AID FOR AVOCETS

The avocet, a snipe-like bird with a long up-turned beak, now breeds on Havergate Island, Suffolk, after an absence of over a century.

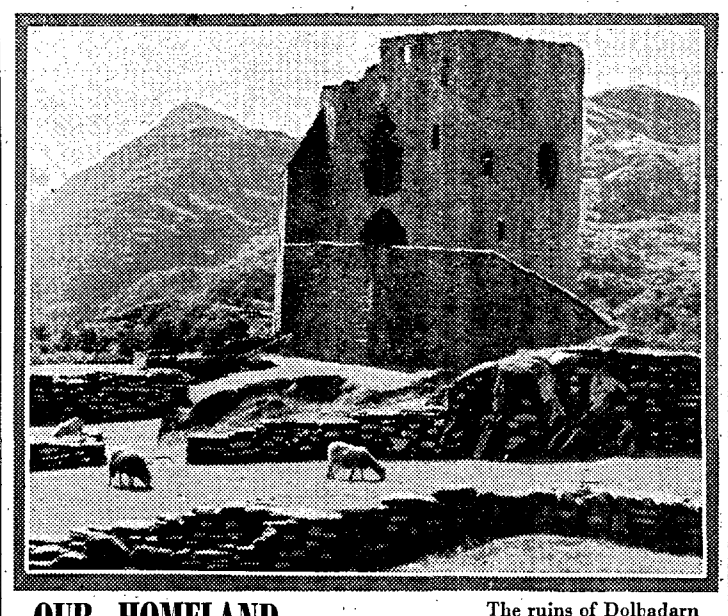
Yet though so closely guarded and protected from some of their foes by the huge armies of black-headed gulls, quick to mob birds of prey, surprisingly few young avocets were to be seen ready to fly away to their winter quarters at the end of each breeding season.

So Mr. P. J. Conder, of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, did some detective work on the problem. And he found that the black-headed gulls had multiplied so much that they left all too little feeding and nesting space for the avocets.

He observed, too, that in places the water-level is too high for the avocets' liking.

So now a new sluice is being built to keep down the water. And the experts are discussing what humane action can be taken to persuade some of the gulls to nest elsewhere.

These avocets are the stars of a splendid short film which the R.S.P.B. (25 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1) lend to schools at a fee of ten shillings.



OUR HOMELAND

The ruins of Dolbadarn Castle, Caernarvonshire

News from Everywhere

A model of the giant Jupiter C rocket that hurled America's first earth satellite into space has been placed in the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, beside the Wright brothers' plane, and the plane in which Lindbergh made the first lone flight across the Atlantic.

POPULAR SAUSAGE

According to The Food Research Association, Britons ate 4500 million sausages in 1957—ninety sausages apiece for every man, woman, and child in the country.

Russia's first atomic-powered surface vessel, the icebreaker Lenin, is due to make trial runs this spring. Designed to plough through ice nearly eight feet thick, her main task will be to keep Russia's Arctic trade routes open.

A great fossil bed discovered in Argentina contains many remains of creatures that roamed the earth 170 million years ago.

A workman hit a 3300-volt cable with a pickaxe at Manchester the other day and put five sub-stations out of action. He suffered no shock himself.

DOGS OF THE YARD

Scotland Yard now has a special department, D9, concerned with the training and recruitment of police dogs.

Russian explorers in the Antarctic have grown tomatoes and cucumbers in window boxes warmed by electric lamps.

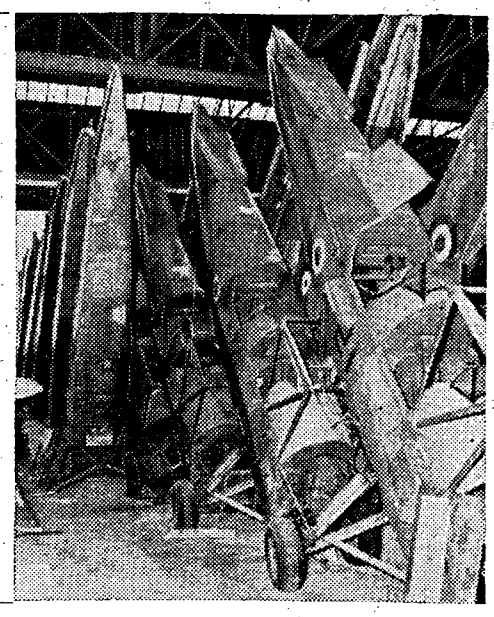
HIGH WIND IN THE PACIFIC

A 120 m.p.h. hurricane has devastated the island of Niue, 300 miles south-east of Samoa. Homes, three mission schools, and Government buildings were destroyed and trees uprooted. Only five people were injured.

The Airways Terminal at Victoria, London, is to be extended at a cost of about £1,000,000.

Moths in store

Fuselages of Tiger Moth trainer aircraft awaiting repair at Croydon Airport. After being put in order they are to be sold to flying clubs.



Following Mr. Krushchev's remark that the Soviet Union should import Stilton cheese, the English Country Cheese Council sent him and Marshal Voroshilov a Stilton cheese apiece.

A manuscript copy of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales dating from about 1450 was sold recently in London to a New York dealer for £15,200. Known as the Brudenell Codex, the manuscript has been in the Brudenell family since the late 16th century.

Work is to begin on the giant Isaac Newton telescope which is to be erected at Herstmonceux, Sussex. Estimated to cost £660,000, it will be the biggest telescope in the world outside the United States.

Armed police recently patrolled the banks of the river at Rockhampton, Queensland, after a 12-foot crocodile had been seen at a point where children often go swimming. It was the first crocodile reported near Rockhampton for many years.

The George Medal has been awarded to Corporal J. David-Marklew, Royal Horse Guards, for his courage in pulling the pilot out of a plane that crashed in flames.

A German workman loading crates of eggs on a train at Hamburg was accidentally locked in the wagon. He was in the wagon for four days and nights and kept himself alive by eating eggs. Now he says he never wants to see an egg again.

Eight pigeons set off from Bideford, Devon, the other day on a 3600-mile flight—by plane. They had been sold to a fancier in Barbados.

THEY SAY . . .

WE have all failed exams at some time and I don't think we have borne many chips on our shoulders as a result.

Lord Somers

I HAVE very little experience of self-government. In fact, I'm one of the most governed people you could expect to meet.

Prince Philip

MY children regard me as a little soft on top over railways and steam engines, but I accept with sentimental regret that the steam locomotive's days are numbered.

Lord Ferrier

TRAVELLING between home and work has become a major occupation of the British people.

Lord Beveridge

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Navy gun crew in training

Men of Portsmouth Command field gun crew go into vigorous training for their forthcoming appearance in the Royal Tournament at Earls Court in June.

Getting together on the weather

Melbourne is to be the world centre for Antarctic weather research for a period of five years.

An International Antarctic Symposium has just been opened there and information will be supplied to forecasters all over the world by a staff made up of scientists from Australia, Britain, the United States, Russia, France, Norway, and other countries with Antarctic bases.

LIGHTING UP

An exhibition called Lighting through the Ages is on view at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, until the end of April. It is the first public event to be held in the Museum's new Department of Industry.

Shark for the teacher

An English boy at school in Famagusta, Cyprus, handed his teacher an unusual present the other day. It was a baby shark, about 15 inches long, which had been washed up on the beach.

The shark was one of 14 babies, born when the mother was stranded on a reef after a storm. None of the babies survived, although some swam around in a bath for a few hours.

Block of ice for the Equator

A three-ton block of ice has been sent on a 6300-mile lorry trip from Mo-I-Rana, within the Arctic Circle in North Norway, to Libreville in French Equatorial Africa, a town which is almost on the Equator. The project has been arranged by an organisation of European glass wool manufacturers to demonstrate the insulating qualities of their product.

Also in the lorry-load was seven cwt. of medical supplies for Dr. Albert Schweitzer at the hospital at Lambaréné, about 100 miles from Libreville.

SHERWOOD FOREST FOR EXPORT

Acorns from an estate in Sherwood Forest are being exported to the United States. This is because Robin Hood is becoming such a favourite character with American children that many of them want to start their own small Sherwood Forest.

The acorns are sold at two dollars (about 14s. 8d.) a pound.

Long-lost tooth

For some time eleven-year-old Eric Hunns of Brandon, Suffolk, kicked a peculiar object he had found round a pit near his home. Later a local museum identified it as a tooth from the jaw of a young elephant which roamed this country about half a million years ago.

LEGACY FOR JANET

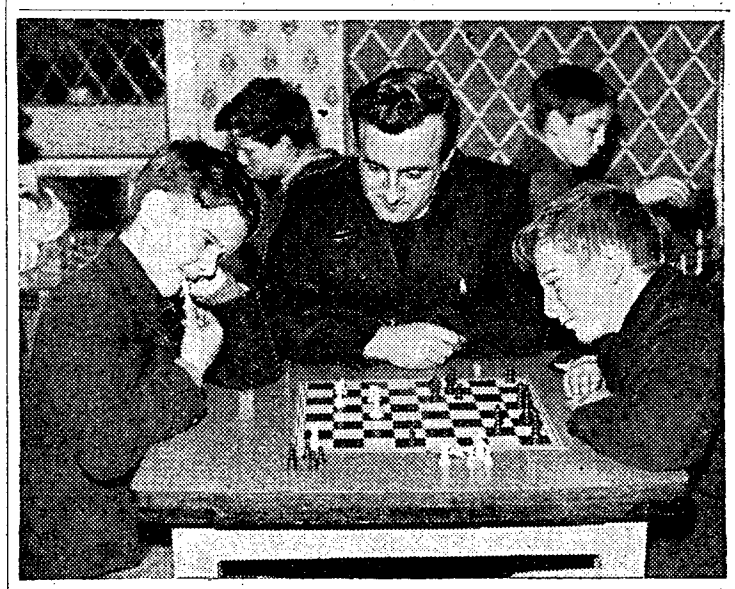
An elderly couple staying in a cottage in the Peak District during the husband's convalescence used to go for walks with eight-year-old Janet, the daughter of the house.

Her company, they said, helped the old man to get well again. Now four years later, Janet finds herself heiress to a legacy of £100 left her in his will "in remembrance of friendship."

The ideal bank manager

What are the qualities needed in a good bank manager? Here are some listed by the deputy chairman of the Institute of Bankers when he spoke at Derby the other day.

"The dignity of an archbishop, the smile of a film star and the skin of a rhinoceros—with ability to say 'Sorry' in a gentle voice which combines friendship, regret, condolence, hope for the future, thankfulness for past mercies."



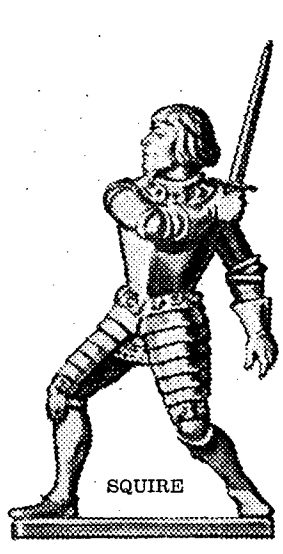
What's the next move?

A lunch-time club for schoolboys has been started by Father John Norton of Stepney, here presiding over a game of chess.

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SWORDSMAN


HALBERDIER


BOWMAN

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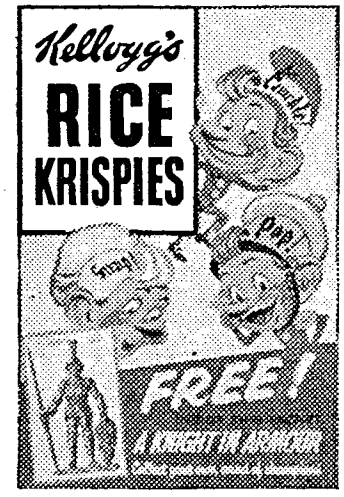
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ERNEST THOMSON WRITES ABOUT RADIO AND TELEVISION PERSONALITIES AND PROGRAMMES

Thursday's Roundabout is for young people

HAVE you noticed that Thursday evening editions of the Light Programme's Roundabout at 5.30 are specially angled on young people's interests?

"We have never actually said so," Producer Jack Singleton told me. "But it is a fact that we've made Thursday the night for teenagers. Usually there is an Adventure Spot, a Science Spot, and a three-minute item on Careers."

This Thursday, Looking for a Job will be about the career of radio officer in the Merchant Navy, and the job-finder will be Fred Hubert, Youth Employment Officer from Derbyshire.

The man who last December dared to taste the Christmas pudding which had been tinned 135 years ago for Captain Sir Edward Parry, explorer of the North-West Passage, will be the speaker in the Science Spot. He is Dr. F. H. Banfield, Director of the British Food Manufacturing Industries Research Association. His theme? Taste.



Ken Sykora

Ken Sykora, the guitarist compère of Roundabout, is a man of wide interests. Best known, perhaps, as host of the Light Programme Guitar Club, he holds a London B.Sc. (Economics) degree and was president of the Students' Club of the London School of Economics.

Back from Paraguay

MANY young people will certainly be staying up for David Attenborough's new Zoo Quest, which begins a six-week run in B B C Television on March 20. The Quest will be on the air from 9 to 9.30 every Friday.

David Attenborough and his photographer colleague Charles Lagus will be showing some of the results of their trek through Paraguay in the closing months of 1958. Apart from thousands of feet of film, they brought back at least 50 animals and birds which have found their way into the London Zoo. Many of them will be in the T V studios.

Among them, I hear, is likely to be the coati-mundi, which Attenborough describes as "a little four-legged job with a long nose," and a baby capybara which, he says, "has the look of something that will grow into a sort of big guinea-pig."

On the way home the animal that made the biggest nuisance of itself was their captured wolf. It escaped in Asunçion, the Paraguayan capital, and bounded through the streets baying like the Hound of the Baskervilles.

In New York, Attenborough says, he tried to get his armadillos some rotten meat, which they love. He was unlucky, so the little creatures had to eat fresh meat.

Bones dig into history

THOSE boy detectives, Norman and Henry Bones (Charles Hawtrey and Patricia Hayes), will be probing into history in their new B B C Children's Hour adventure on Saturday.

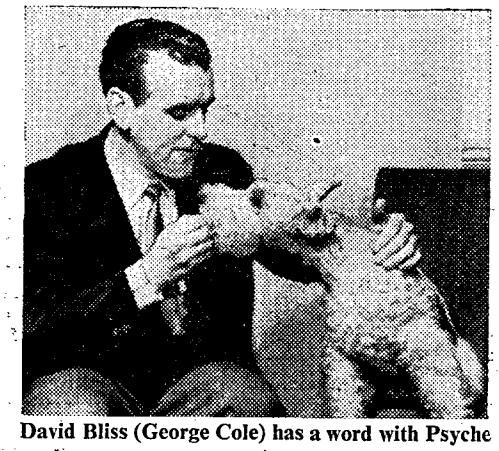
Alexander Keepeth Watch, written by Anthony C. Wilson, is about their discovery of treasure hidden by an abbot at the time of Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries.

BLISS GETS HIS HUNDRED

A LIFE OF BLISS, starring George Cole as David Bliss, is popular with listeners of all ages. This Wednesday it reaches its century in the Home Service with the lunchtime broadcast between 1.10 and 1.40 p.m. If you miss it then, you can catch up with the recording at 8 o'clock next Tuesday in the Light.

David Bliss is the character originally created by David Tomlinson. "David did the first six programmes, then I took over," says George. "It is the only radio series I have ever done."

The Bliss adventures are pre-recorded in a B B C London studio every Sunday. Along with George Cole in the 100th performance are Diana Churchill, who plays David's sister Ann; Colin Gordon (Ann's husband); Sheila Sweet (David's girl friend), and Percy Edwards, who yelps and barks for Psyche the dog.



David Bliss (George Cole) has a word with Psyche

MacGregor, the Indian who speaks in Chinese

THE Dragon's Hiccups in B B C Children's T V next Tuesday may be one of the best puppet shows seen on the screen.

I say this after hearing from Producer Gordon Murray that the entire story was filmed for the first time—*not* telerecorded—in the Puppet Workshop instead of the T V studios.

"It was quite a cosy affair," said Mr. Murray. "Because we were making a film we were able to spend a week on it. A telerecording, which is practically the same as a transmission, has to be completed in one hour. Being in our own workshop was a great help, too."

Many more scenes than usual were included as the film cameras could be set up in a new position for each separate "take."

The Dragon's Hiccups was originally televised in the summer of 1956, but next week's version has a completely new set of puppets. And according to Gordon Murray, author as well as producer, the story has been improved.

We will meet the Rubovian Royal Family again, this time in the clutches of a mysterious character dressed as an Indian, but speaking Chinese, and answering to the name of MacGregor. The Dragon cannot stand the sight of this strange fellow, hence the hiccups.

I hear the B B C are hoping the Dragon's Hiccups film will find a market on American T V and perhaps in some of the Commonwealth countries, too.

HIS PET IS A FOX

PASSERS-BY in Kingsway, London, were startled the other morning to see a bearded young man walking along with a fox under his arm. He was Graham Dangerfield. He and Dennis the fox had just been to Television House sitting for the portrait you see here.

Graham Dangerfield has joined the Associated - Rediffusion Lucky Dip team for the fortnightly Nature Spot due to begin this Tuesday. Photography is his profession, but his hobby is breeding small animals at his home in Redbourn, Hertfordshire.

Dennis is one of three fox cubs which Graham Dangerfield reared last year. One escaped to the woods, but the other two are still members of the household.

Graham also has colonies of stoats, weasels, and squirrels. He tells me he hopes to bring some of them to the Wembley studio in his big, deep pockets. Other guests in Lucky Dip will include a badger and perhaps an otter.



Graham Dangerfield and Dennis

Boy who built his own observatory

A 17-YEAR-OLD boy who has built an observatory in his back garden will be featured in Seeing Stars in B B C Children's T V next Friday. He is Ramon Lane, who lives in the small mining village of Shiremoor, Northumberland.

Astronomer Patrick Moore told me he took the opportunity of visiting Ramon's observatory the day after lecturing in Newcastle.

"It really is a remarkable piece of work," said Mr. Moore. "Although Ramon did not build his telescope—a six-inch reflector—he has equipped his observatory entirely unaided in every other respect. He got his knowledge of astronomy from radio and books. I took photos on the spot, and the observatory has also been filmed by the B B C. These pictures will be shown in Seeing Stars."

Ramon has also developed a fine aurora camera for photographing the Northern Lights. His pictures proved helpful to scientists taking part in the International Geophysical Year.

BUILD THIS POCKET RADIO



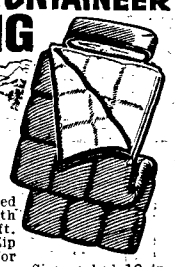
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MYSTERY OF THE RARE WHITE BLACKBIRD

A READER, Geoffrey Thorpe, of Leeds, wrote in recently to say that he had several times seen a white blackbird in his garden at home. This followed a note in our issue of January 31 saying that a white blackbird had been seen in Norfolk.

Now many birds, animals, and wild flowers from time to time produce these albino or white forms. In the case of the blackbird, partial albinism, with a few white patches or individual white feathers, is a good deal commoner than complete albinism.

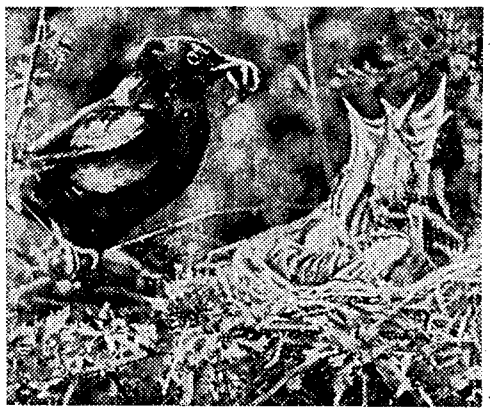
COLOUR VARIATIONS

There are also other variations from normal colouring. In the rook, for instance, a greyish, barred variety turns up every now and then, and similar varieties occur even more rarely in both the carrion crow and the jackdaw. Or the variety may be completely black, when it is called melanic. And there lies the solution of the mystery, as I shall explain shortly.

For the mystery is, why are all blackbirds not white? What keeps the white or partially white variation such a rarity in the blackbird population as a whole?

Partial albinism is the result of a lack of colouring in the feathers. Complete albinism is a more radical condition, and includes red eyes and other peculiarities, as well as all-white fur or feathers.

Both kinds of albinism, partial and complete, are inherited, but in most populations of animals and birds albinos are at such a disadvantage that they are eliminated in what Darwin called the struggle for existence. It is partly that white creatures are more conspicuous except over the sea, which is why there are so many white sea birds. White animals, then, are more easily seen and killed by enemies. Furthermore, most animals hate and attack strangely coloured individuals of their own species. So the chances of a white animal or bird being able to mate with another one and produce white offspring are always very small.



A semi-albino blackbird brings food to its young

The classic known instance of one of these rare variations succeeding in the wild is that of the peppered moth, a common moth in most of the British Isles. This produces a black or melanic variety, which used to be very rare because a black moth is so conspicuous resting on a tree trunk that birds quickly pick it out and eat it. Dr. Kettlewell, an Oxford scientist, has proved this, incidentally, by actual experiments with birds and both black and normally coloured grey peppered moths.

However, a hundred years or so ago, along came man with a lot of smoky chimneys, and soon there were a lot of sooty walls and tree trunks on which a black peppered moth could rest and never be seen by the sharpest-eyed bird. And within a surprisingly short time the black form of the peppered moth had become the common one in all industrial areas where a lot of soot is deposited on the trees, and the normal grey form was the rare one.

On a black tree, of course, a grey moth is more conspicuous. It so happens that a melanic is actually hardier than a normally coloured animal, so that if it can overcome the disadvantage of being more conspicuous, it will prosper. This is what the peppered moth has done, and quite a number of other moths are beginning to follow its example.

So until the white blackbird can make itself hardy enough to live in the Arctic, so that its white plumage will help it instead of making it more obvious, I am afraid it is unlikely to take the place of the black blackbird.

But when the next Ice Age comes, all the blackbirds in Geoffrey Thorpe's garden may be white!

RICHARD FITTER

His 200th model

This replica of the Fairey Delta 2 was finished recently by Geoffrey Sansbury of Northwood, Middlesex. The machine is driven by a 1·55 c.c. diesel engine at 40 miles an hour. It is the 200th scale model he has made.



Faithful unto death

Seven years ago, Laddie, a black-and-white sheep dog, saved the life of his master Mr. J. B. Garbutt, a farm manager of Nunthorpe, near Middlesbrough. When attacked by a cow, Mr. Garbutt's leg was broken and his ribs crushed, but Laddie kept the cow away till his master was rescued.

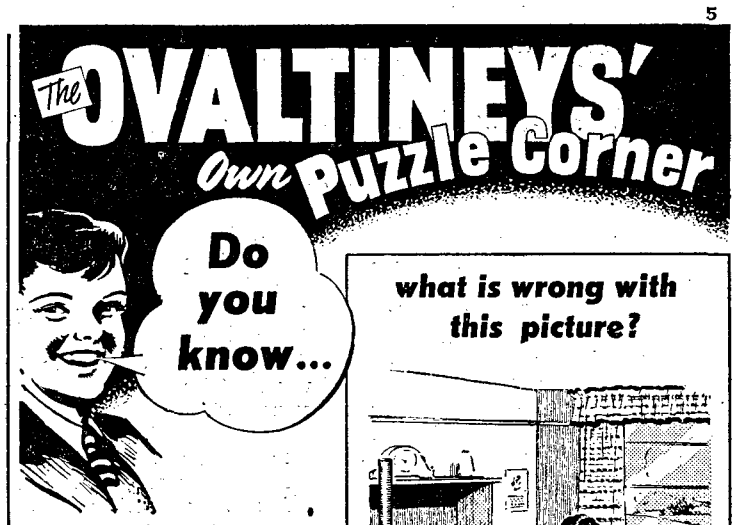
When Mr. Garbutt had recently to go into hospital, Laddie was found under his bed, though no one knows how he got there. He could not be coaxed out and was allowed to remain.

Only after Mr. Garbutt died did Laddie allow himself to be led away.

HOLIDAY WITH PAY

A prospective holiday-maker wrote to the Bridlington Information Bureau asking for their guide book and to be told if there were any wrecks, with gold aboard, in Bridlington Bay.

Official comment: "We would like to hear of one of those ourselves."



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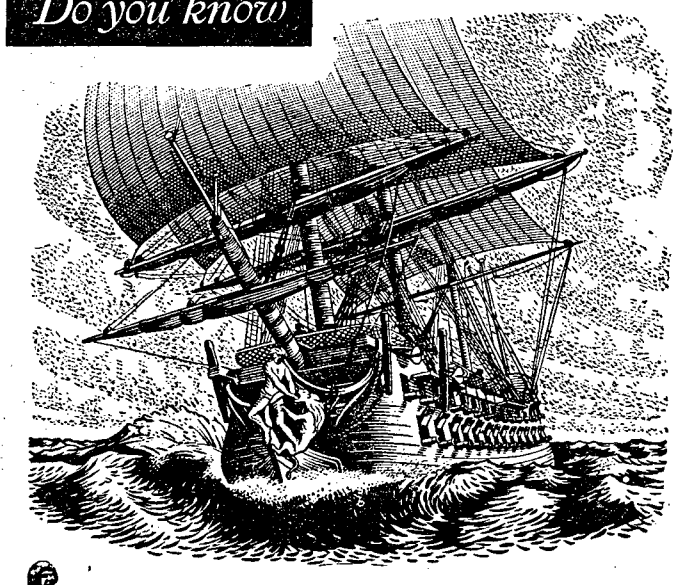
Members of the League of Ovaltineys have great fun with the secret high-signs, signals and code. You can join the League and obtain your badge and the Official Rule Book (which also contains the words and music of the Ovaltiney songs), by sending a label from a tin of 'Ovaltine' with your full name, address and age to: THE CHIEF OVALTINEY (Dept D), 42 Upper Grosvenor Street, London, W.1.

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3. Scales are tipping the wrong way.
4. Kettle has no spout.
5. Draining board slopes the wrong way.
6. Hot water is coming from "Cold" tap.

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HOW RUBBER FIRST CAME TO THIS COUNTRY?

IN 1736 Charles de la Condamine, a Frenchman, headed an expedition to Peru. He brought back with him details of the native uses of rubber and, more important still, the first-known samples to reach Europe.

In 1791, Samuel Peel took out the first patent in England relating to the practical use of rubber. Thomas Hancock, described as the "father of the rubber industry", carried on this work and in 1819 was devising rubber solutions for the proofing of textiles. About the same time Charles Macintosh, who founded the present Dunlop waterproof clothing company, invented the first waterproof.

In fact, much work had been done to make the raw material softer and more workable. Then came the Dunlop pneumatic tyre which, more than anything else, promoted the widespread use of rubber.

Think of tyres and you think of

DUNLOP

88/112

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SEEING SPORT FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE SCREEN

CAN you say which of the children's programmes on Associated TeleVision can boast the longest continuous run? As no prizes are to be awarded, writes a C N correspondent, I can reveal the answer. It is Seeing Sport, the Monday evening programme for young sports enthusiasts, which I saw being televised the other day at the A T V studios in North London.

My guide was Lawrie Higgins, Sports Editor of A T V, who shares with Producer Bill Allenby the responsibility of putting on this popular show every Monday evening at five o'clock. And it was he who told me that it holds the A T V record among children's programmes.

"Yet it started as a stop-gap," he said. "A hitch cropped up with the regular show, so at short notice we had to produce a half-hour sports programme for youngsters. We put our heads together and devised the idea of having an expert teach various sports each week—making the screen a sort of class-room. Now we have done over 130 shows and have included nearly all the sports in which young people are interested."

GENERAL FAVOURITE

Since that first Seeing Sport programme—on June 12, 1956—the show has become a favourite with boys and girls all over the country. Every Monday nearly three million viewers watch the programme; and every week between 300 and 400 of them write to the A T V offices to point out the deliberate mistake which is always included.

"It can become quite a headache," said Peter Lloyd, the genial commentator of the programme. "Not long ago, for instance, we deliberately described Jimmy Greaves as Chelsea's centre-forward instead of inside-forward. Over 6000 children wrote to tell us of our mistake!

"And sometimes," he added with a wry grin, "we get lots of letters pointing out a mistake that was *not* deliberate!"

We were talking on the studio floor just before the 130th edition of Seeing Sport was due to be televised. This programme was concerned with table tennis, and Johnny Leach and Diane Rowe were to give a demonstration and instruction to a group of boys and girls from a local school.

All around us the cameramen were making the final adjustments to the position of the cameras, and the technicians were testing the battery of overhead arc lights, the booms carrying the microphones, and the monitor television set beneath one of the cameras.

"Five minutes to go!" came the warning from the floor manager. People gradually drifted off the set and moved to one side. "One minute."

While Peter Lloyd took up his position in front of one of the cameras, I followed Producer Bill Allenby into the sound-proof control-room from which he directs operations like a general issuing orders to his staff.

IN THE CONTROL-ROOM

Mr. Allenby, his production assistant, and the vision mixer were in the control-room, keeping a close watch on five screens. The first screen, I learned, was used for testing purposes; the second showed the actual picture being sent out to your T V sets at home; and the other three showed the view being obtained by each of the three cameras on the studio floor.

As I tiptoed into the room, the production assistant, Elizabeth Read, was beginning to count the seconds, stop-watch in hand. "Ten, nine, eight," she intoned "three, two, one."

"Fade up picture," rapped Mr. Allenby. "First credit titles . . . Change titles . . . No. 1 camera."

And there was Peter Lloyd saying "Good evening, everyone. Here is another edition of Seeing Sport."

From then on came a constant flow of orders from the producer to the cameramen, the floor manager, Bill Goodall, and the vision mixer, whose job it is to select the picture ordered by the producer.

The programme had been rehearsed in outline for two hours during the afternoon, but in a live broadcast of this type there could be no script; there could only be certain cues which Peter Lloyd and Johnny Leach had to remember so as to make sure that everything went according to plan—five minutes of demonstration, five minutes of instruction, three minutes of interviewing, and so on.

WARNING LIGHT

Prompted by his production assistant with her detailed time-chart, Mr. Allenby was constantly on the alert to warn the floor manager about the next cue or the next move. From his position on the edge of the studio, the floor manager would convey the message by signals to the man in front of the camera.

Everyone on the set knows which particular camera is being focused on them, because it carries a red light. If the light goes off they know that the producer has chosen the picture from another camera, and if the speaker is addressing you in your home he turns slightly so that he still faces the camera with the light on it—and into your screen.

And so it went on until the production assistant, her stop-watch always at the ready, called "One minute."

"Prepare to wind-up," snapped Mr. Allenby to the floor manager. Peter Lloyd received his signal, faced the No. 1 camera, and deftly brought the programme to an end.

"Fade in credit title," ordered Mr. Allenby. "Change titles . . . Second change . . . Off. That's it, everyone. Thank you all very much."

Another edition of Seeing Sport was over.



Peter Lloyd broadcasting from a Thames sailing club



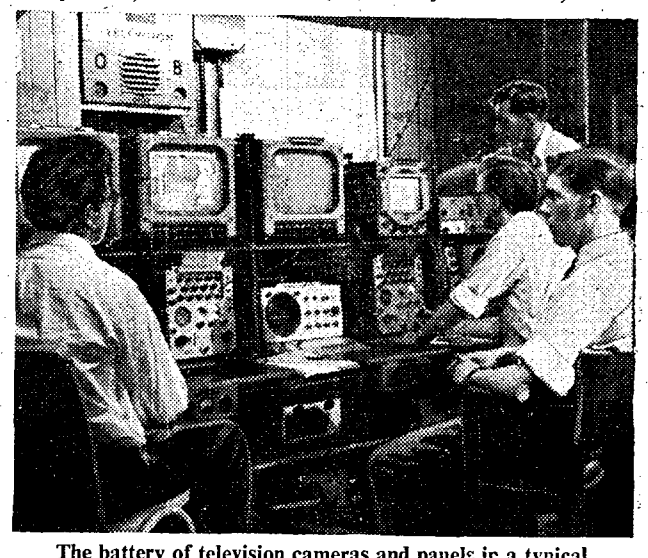
A word with the table tennis stars : Diane Rowe (beside the schoolboy), Johnny Leach, and Mike Thornhill. *(Picture by Kilburn Times.)*



Peter Lloyd (left) interviews champion swimmer Margaret Edwards at a pool built by schoolchildren at Stevenage



Walter Winterbottom, Peter Lloyd, and Lawrie Higgins handling a vast mail



The battery of television cameras and panels in a typical control-room

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SHIPLOAD OF GAS

A million therms of explosive gas from the Gulf of Mexico safely reached Canvey Island, at the mouth of the Thames, the other day. It was methane gas—2000 tons of it—in liquid form, and it arrived in the Methane Pioneer, the only ship in the world equipped to carry such a cargo.

Piped into the vessel in liquid form at a port on the Gulf of Mexico, the gas was "frozen" to minus 260 degrees Fahrenheit. Above that temperature the liquid vaporises into an explosive gas. For thousands of miles across the ocean there was constant watch on the cargo's temperature; a rise might well have brought an explosion, and disaster to the vessel and everyone aboard.

At the Regent Oil Company's jetty at Canvey the liquid gas was pumped into two huge storage tanks, from which it can be piped to the North Thames Gas Board's plant at Romford, where it will be adapted for domestic use.

This voyage was the first of several which the Methane Pioneer will make before experiments are completed. But to make such a venture economical, it is believed that tankers of 30,000 tons capacity—15 times that of the Pioneer—will be needed.

The day will no doubt come, however, when our New Zealand lamb and Danish bacon will be cooked by gas which had been brought across the ocean from the other side of the world.

Whipsnade birthday



The other day Olga, the Bactrian camel, gave birth to a new foal, Carl. He is five feet tall.

BOY WHO STOPPED THE BUS

While travelling in a Bradford bus Christopher Stoker saw the driver collapse across the steering wheel. He immediately climbed through the window behind the driving cabin and managed to steer the bus to the roadside bringing it to a halt.

Christopher, who is only 13, has since been awarded £25 by Bradford Transport Committee.

Royalist lady's stronghold

Corfe Castle has been one of Dorset's most picturesque ruins for more than 300 years, ever since 1646, in fact. Then, Roundhead soldiers who had been held at bay there for nearly three years by brave Lady Bankes and her handful of men, captured it and tried to blow it up with gunpowder.

Now it is to receive its first big repairs. It still belongs to the Bankes family, and the work is to be carried out by Mr. H. J. R. Bankes and the Ministry of Works at a cost of £20,000.

EMPEROR'S CANDLESTICKS

The great banqueting table of the Emperor of Ethiopia will soon glitter with a wonderful set of 18 sterling silver rose bowls and six candelabra. They have been specially designed by a Sheffield firm.

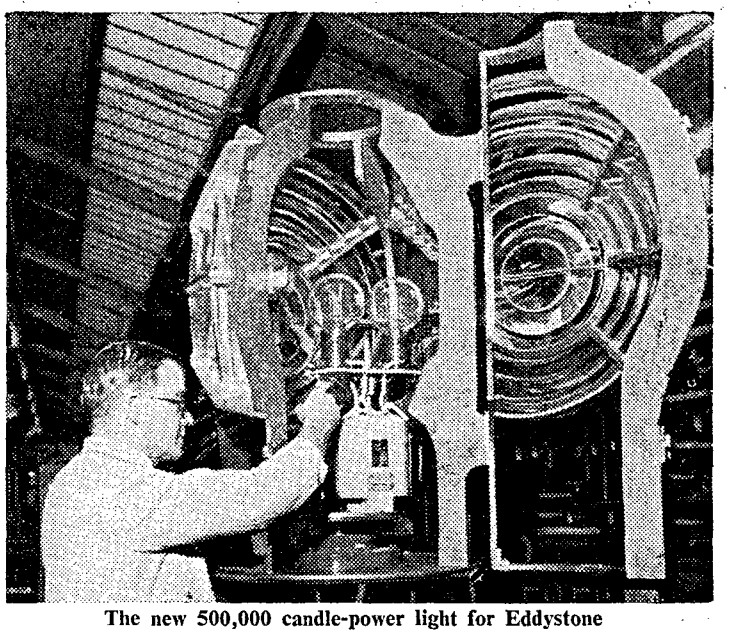
There are six large and 12 smaller rose bowls with rosewood plinths, and nets to support flowers.

The candelabra are reproductions of Old Sheffield Plate—three with nine lights and three with five.

SELF-SHUTTING

An American firm is developing an electronic device which will automatically close windows when the weather suddenly turns bad. It will operate in rain, snow, high wind, or when the temperature outside falls below a certain level.

NEW LIGHT FOR EDDYSTONE



The new 500,000 candle-power light for Eddystone

There will be many dazzling sights next week at Earls Court, London, where the Electrical Engineers' Exhibition is being held from March 17 to 21. More than 400 of Britain's leading electrical firms will be showing their wares, and equipment worth over £2,000,000 will be on view.

Lighting of various kinds will naturally have a prominent place in the show. One of the "highlights" in the fullest sense of the word will be the new light which is to be installed in the Eddystone Lighthouse later this year. The present one is illuminated by a petroleum vapour burner, and transmits a double flash every 30 seconds. The new one, though smaller, will make a double flash every ten seconds. Its beam will be seen for about 17 miles.

Another fascinating feature at the Exhibition will be an arrangement of 4000 changing lights, demonstrating automatic control and the use of colour in illumination. Equally impressive will be an indoor version of the popular Son et Lumière display of light, sound, and colour.



This photograph shows ten volumes of the "Children's Encyclopedia" in a magnificent Solid Oak bookcase.

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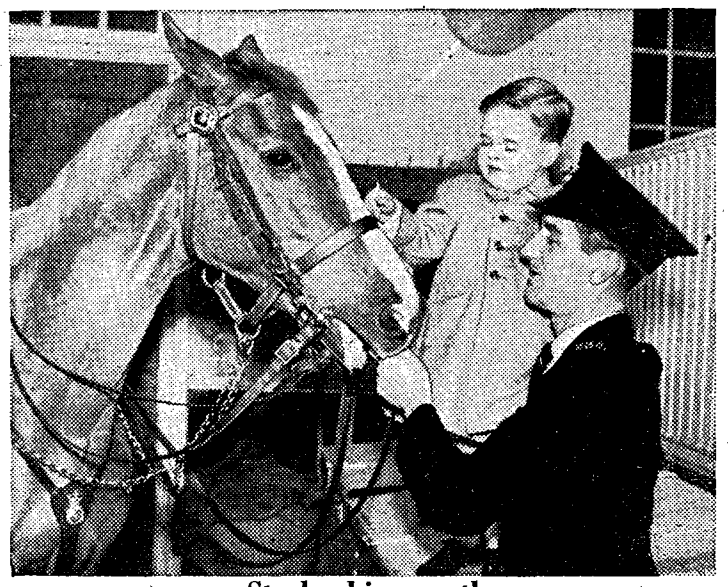
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Stroke him gently

Michael Bartlett of Wallington, Surrey, meets police horse Dante in the West End of London. This was a sequel to Michael's trip to town during which he saw Dante slip and fall. The boy sent the horse a parcel of sugar, not forgetting a bar of chocolate for the rider. So the police returned the compliment by asking Michael to meet Dante in person.

Which way will they go?

Twenty thousand young salmon recently travelled by rail from Thurso, Caithness, down to Loch Lomondside, Dumbartonshire. Hatched out in Thurso waters, the tiny fish were placed in tanks for the journey.

They are now swimming about in two streams leading into Loch Lomond, and were put there to increase the salmon stock in the rivers Leven and Endrick, and Loch Lomond.

But, the question is being asked, will the Thurso fish return to the waters in which they were born or come back to the Dumbartonshire streams for spawning?

The year after next the youngsters will develop silvery scales and become "smolt" when they should head for the sea. But one of the wonders in the life of salmon is that they always return to the fresh water where they were hatched out, for spawning. To get there they surmount great difficulties; leaping over turbulent waterfalls and starving in pools (salmon do not eat in fresh water) while waiting for rain to fill partly dried-up rivers and allow them to journey to their spawning grounds.

Realising the urge of salmon to get back to the spawning grounds, Scottish Hydro engineers, who have altered river courses and heightened waterfalls, have provided fish ladders (they are a kind of staircase of little concrete water-troughs) which enable the fish to by-pass newly-built dams and changed river courses by jumping up the "staircase" from one trough to another.

Anglers are patiently waiting to find if the attempt to stock Loch Lomond is successful, for nobody knows whether the grown salmon will go back to their Thurso birthplace in order to spawn or if they may return to the Loch Lomond streams.

WHO'S WHO AT THE ZOO

New ostriches for London

PREPARATIONS are now being made for the shipment, in spring, of a pair of young South African ostriches from Portuguese East Africa to the London Zoo. They will be the first of these biggest of all the birds to be seen at Regent's Park since last summer, when Sophie, the menagerie's only specimen, died.

"The ostriches coming here are at present in the zoological gardens at Lourenço Marques," said a Zoo official.

"Ostriches are tricky birds to install here, largely because of their strength and stubbornness. It is always a difficult task to get them into their indoor stalls at the ostrich house. But there are tricks in every trade, and keepers long ago evolved the idea of covering the bird's head in some flimsy covering such as an old sock. Usually the ostrich then allows itself to be led."

Peter the alligator lays some eggs

For the first time since pre-war years the London Zoo has some "home-produced" alligator eggs. Three have just been laid by a 14-year-old Mississippi alligator known as Pete. The eggs were seen on the bed of the pool and were promptly fished out by Mr. R. A. Lanworn, the overseer. But, unfortunately, none of these eggs will produce any baby alligators, for they are infertile.

"Peter is very well known to visitors," Mr. Lanworn told me. "We obtained him as a youngster just after the war, and for many years he was our tamest specimen and was frequently handled by people. We had always believed Peter to be a male, and it was a considerable surprise to us when we found 'he' had laid eggs.

"Two or three years ago Peter became too big for handling, and so we retired him to a small pool.

"We have not yet decided what to do with Peter's eggs. They are large, white, hard-shelled objects, twice the size of hens' eggs and very elongated. But we shall probably blow out the contents with a pump and retain the shells as souvenirs."

Weighing the tortoises

All the zoo's giant tortoises are shortly to "step on the scales." "There are 16 of these giants," said an official. "The biggest is undoubtedly Marmaduke, who before coming here in 1951 had spent over 40 years in a Calcutta garden. He measures nearly six feet over the shell, fore to aft, and we reckon he must weigh about 40 stone.

"Smallest are some of the Porter's Blackish tortoises from the Galapagos Islands—they measure only a couple of feet or so and weigh perhaps 120lb.

"Some of the giants are in winter quarters in the central chamber at the reptile house; others are at the rodent house. So we are rigging up a special apparatus over each enclosure. Keepers will lift each tortoise into a big net which will be fixed to a hook beneath the dial.

"Many of these tortoises are very old," the official added. "But Marmaduke is almost certainly the oldest. His precise age is anyone's guess, but he is certainly well advanced in his second century."

Pigeon in the pheasantry

Zoo visitors going to the pheasantry to inspect the guinea-fowl and other game-birds are often surprised to see a small wood-pigeon flitting happily among the pheasants.

"Most people imagine that the pigeon, whom we call Ernie (short for Ernestine) must have got into the aviary by error," Head-keeper Jack Ward told me. "But that is not the case. Ernie has quite a history. She was found, four years ago, as a squab, by a London schoolboy, who brought her to us for special care."

"At first we hand-reared her in our kitchen. Later, when she became too big, we put her in the guinea-fowls' aviary. Some visitors have suggested that we ought to release her. But Ernie is so tame that she would probably not be able to earn her own living.

"She is also a constant source of amusement to visitors. When I go into the aviary to feed the inmates, Ernie invariably sits on my head and remains there, even helping herself at times to nuts from my pocket."

Fine feathers in Paris



This handsome toucan was seen at a recent bird show organised in Paris. Exhibits came from all over the world.

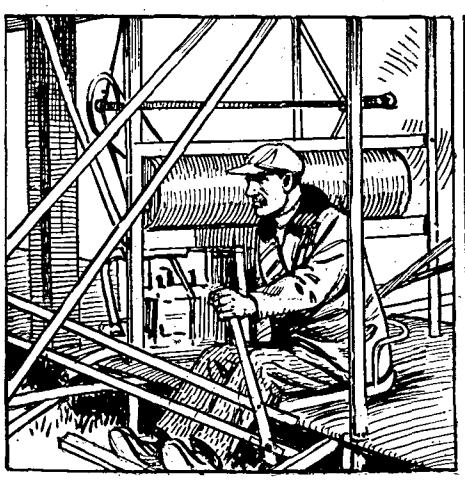
The white python leaves Paignton

From Paignton Zoo comes news of its famous exhibit, Serata, the white python, which has been shown there all winter.

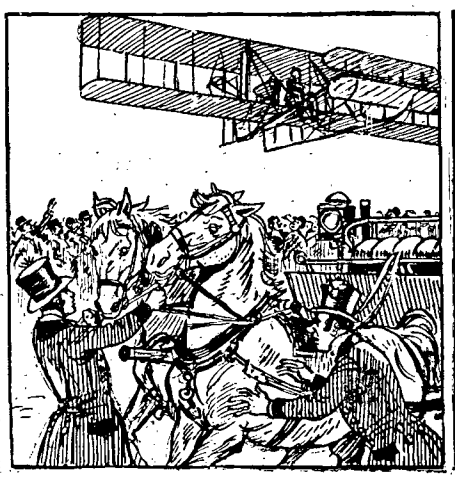
"Serata, who belongs to Mr. Peter Rhyiner, is about to set out on her travels again," Mr. Norman Dixon, the Zoo's managing director, tells me. "After Easter she is to go for a season to Peking."

CRAVEN HILL

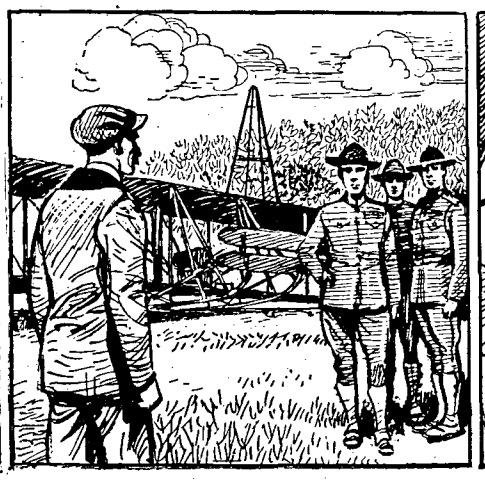
PIONEERS OF FLIGHT—new picture-story of the famous Wright brothers (10)



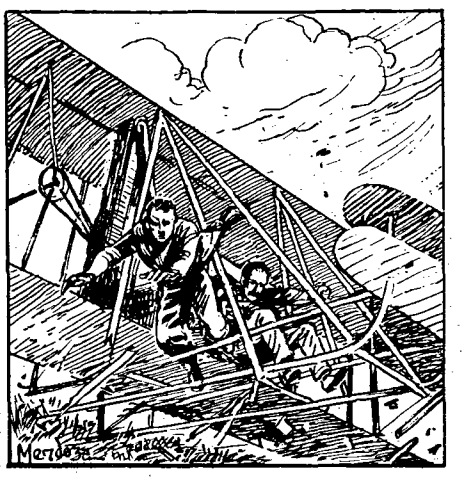
On August 8, 1908, Wilbur was ready for his first flight in France. A big crowd had gathered round the racecourse near Le Mans and most of them expected the demonstration to end in a fiasco. In the grandstand a gentleman claiming to be an aviation expert explained to his friends just what was wrong with the plane's design, and why it could not be expected to fly.



Then Wilbur took off, soared upward, and successfully flew round and round the racecourse. The crowd went wild with excitement and mobbed the pilot when he landed. He became a hero in France, and picture postcards of him sold like hot cakes. Later he went to Pau, and flew before King Edward VII, the King of Spain, and other important people.



Meanwhile, Orville was busy building a plane for the U.S. Army test to be held at Fort Myer, near Washington. He went there in September 1908, but it was obvious that the Army officers did not expect much of his machine. Only a small crowd looked on when Orville—in his everyday clothes—took his seat at the controls. The officers watched him in silence.



But the Fort Myer onlookers soon became as excited as those at Le Mans. For Orville took off and circled the flying field 71 times in 75 minutes. Later he went up again with a passenger. Then a young officer asked for a flight. This time something went wrong. Orville tried to land but crashed. His passenger was killed, and he himself injured.

This was the first plane tragedy in history. What went wrong? See next week's instalment

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A new series about men who take their lives in their hands

LIVING DANGEROUSLY

By Garry Hogg

7. THE ZOO SUPPLIER

Chapter 1

THE day of the big-game hunter is, happily, coming to an end. For a variety of reasons—the cost of safaris, the wisdom of governments in establishing game reserves and appointing rangers to protect the lives of the wild animals native to their countries, and a change in public opinion—it is becoming increasingly rare for men to set out into the jungles and elsewhere for the express purpose of slaughtering elephant, rhino, tiger, leopard, hippo, and lion just for the pleasure of having their hides made into rugs for their floors and their heads mounted on oak panels on their walls.

But the big-game hunter with net and camera plays an important part in a world in which more and more men and women with little hope of distant travel themselves want to know what animals look like in, as nearly as possible, their native habitats. For such people, the zoos of the world today are catering more and more intelligently. There is a constant demand for good, healthy specimens of wild animals, large and small, for display in the world's zoos; and also—though in many imaginative people's opinion this is an unworthy cause—in the big circuses and menageries that tour the world.

Famous names

There are men who devote their lives to exploring remote territories, finding wild animals, capturing them and bringing or sending them back to the Continent and the United States of America. Some of them have become world-famous: Lutz Heck, for example; Bernard Grzimek, Gerald Durrell; and David Attenborough—known today to millions of readers, listeners, and viewers for his lively accounts of collecting strange beasts and, like Armand and Michaela Denis, photographing them in their native haunts, learning more and more about them and communicating their knowledge to stay-at-homes like the great majority of us.

Possibly the best known of all these big-game hunters in the new tradition is Frank Buck, who has spent a lifetime in this dangerous and exciting trade and probably knows more about the hazards, and the rewards, than all the others put together!

It is Frank Buck who once said: "I have had more than my share of thrills, but these close calls do not represent a love of looking Death in the eye. I am not that kind of adventurer. I take no *unnecessary* risks. When a man operates on as big a scale as I do, he does not have to look for trouble. No matter how careful one is, something is bound to go wrong when live animals and reptiles are handled wholesale. It is then that experience counts."

He had spent half a lifetime at his job when he said that. During the 20 years over which he was then looking back he had trapped, and delivered safely and intact to various zoos and circuses and menageries, the following astonishing tally of wild beasts large and small: 40 elephants; 60 tigers, including the famous Royal Bengal species, the Malayan and the Manchurian; 60 leopards, 50 orang-utangs, 20 hyenas, a large number of giraffes, kangaroos, rhino, bears, antelopes, buffalo, crocodiles, and pythons.

Lesson learned

He had captured the largest King Cobra ever to be seen alive in captivity. He had captured more than 5000 monkeys, of almost every species known so far to naturalists. Indeed, there was hardly a creature that ran, crawled, or flew which he had not located, trapped, cared for, and safely delivered to the waiting zoos of the world.

All his life Frank Buck was learning. And one of the lessons he very early learned, and never forgot, was that it is never safe to generalise about animals, any more than it is safe to generalise about human beings. They cannot be relied upon always to respond in the same way to the same set of circumstances. They differ from one another just as human beings do.

"Only one generalisation is safe," he said: "most animals are dangerous when they think they are in danger." He discovered, in the course of his long career, that tigers, however ferocious their species, will very rarely attack a human being; they find the smell of human flesh repulsive, he said, and try to keep clear of it. Most animals, he found, avoid contact with human beings unless they are cornered and sense that they are in danger; then they strike.

Lust to kill

There was one notable exception: the King Cobra, the one and only creature that will attack a human being without the slightest provocation; it possessed "an unfailing determination to wipe out anything that crossed its path; its lust to kill invests it with a quality of fiendishness that puts it in a class by itself."

A King Cobra six feet long has been known to attack and kill a water-buffalo weighing three-quarters of a ton! Its peculiar powers lie in the fact that whereas most snakes strike like lightning and then make off, the King Cobra is equipped with jaws powerful enough to hold its victim while it injects its venom. There is no escape for a victim once held like that.

Tigers are usually trapped in pits dug part-way along a trail which the tiger spoor shows to be in regular use. It will be only four or five feet square at the top, 12 or 15 feet deep and—an important point—twice as wide at the bottom as at the top. A tiger's power of leap is so great that the mouth of the pit must be kept small, and the pit itself deep, or it could spring out.

It drops through the brushwood "lid" of the pit and is perhaps temporarily dazed by the unexpected fall. For some time it is left there. Then, very cautiously, a strong cage with one open side and a vertical sliding door is lowered at the end of a rope to the bottom of the pit. Inside the cage is a hunk of raw goat flesh. The hunter watches. The tiger, curiosity and hunger going hand in hand, advances into the cage to seize the flesh. And at that moment the sliding door drops at the end of a light rope, and the tiger is a prisoner!

It is an old device and a sure one; and, most important, of course, does not injure the animal as the old native-style pit with sharpened stakes set in the bottom would do.

Monkeys, which are always in great demand and exist in many varieties, are of course far less dangerous than tigers, but they are also much more intelligent and suspicious. A hunter has to pit his wits against a monkey's wits, and it is a triumph for him when he succeeds.

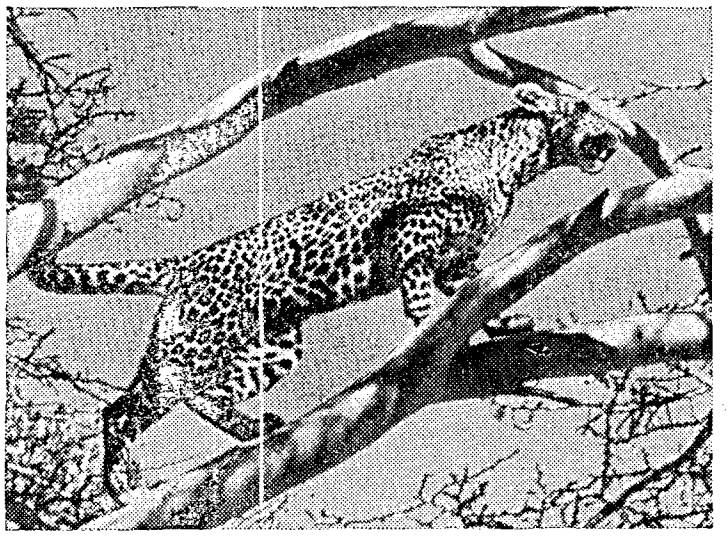
One of the rarer species is the Abyssinian Mantled Baboon, which a well-known zoo supplier was very anxious to capture—incidentally for his own zoo. He well knew what its favourite diet was, and set his native "boys" to make a little house with an open door to it—fitted, of course, with a remote-control, quick-acting, sliding shutter. He laid a trail of sorghum and maize across a wide expanse of forest clearing where a Mantled Baboon had been located, and stacked a lot more of it inside the door.

Then, with a long cord carried over a series of branches to his hiding-place, he waited till the creature's natural curiosity, coupled with a taste for maize and sorghum, led to his quiet and simple capture!

Much fiercer among the monkey clans are the barrel-chested monsters known as orang-utangs. They are carnivorous, and they reach a weight of 20 stone—twice the weight of an average man. They are no mean adversary, for their mode of fighting is to seize their enemy, hug him to their chests and tear him to pieces with their murderous teeth. They make their homes on platforms in the branches of trees and are far too suspicious to be caught by anything as simple as a pit covered with brushwood and earth. Something much more subtle has to be devised to capture an orang-utang!

One big-game hunter had recourse to what some people might consider an unfair trick. Knowing that this creature drinks immense quantities of water, he placed a barrel near the foot of the tree where the platform had been built and half-filled it. Day after day the suspicious orang-utang came down, hesitated, and then knocked the barrel over without touching its contents. But a day came when the sight of the barrel had become so familiar that he gave up knocking it over and even took to having a drink from it—deeper and deeper every time.

This was the moment the hunter was waiting for. Little by little, he added to each day's supply of water an ever-increasing quantity of a native drink called *arric*. *Arric*, in concentrated doses, has the power to numb the senses like any strong alcoholic drink, and the day came at last when the hunter put neat *arric* into the barrel. The orang-utang came down from his tree, dipped his head over the edge of the barrel, and took an enormous drink. It was his first and last drink of neat *arric*. When he recovered consciousness he was in a cage of strong bars, the sliding door locked. And in the cage with him as many bananas as he could wish for.



A leopard returns to the kill it has hidden high in a tree—a picture from the film Beyond the Sahara, shot by Armand and Michaela Denis and distributed by R K O Radio

Among the toughest assignments that such a hunter can take on is the capture of a rhino, which is one of the fiercest beasts against which man has ever to deploy his strength and cunning. A big rhino tips the scales at well over a ton, but for all that has an extraordinary turn of speed; a zoo will offer more than £1000 for even a young rhino safely delivered, and that is a reward well worth working for.

The hunter is assisted, surprisingly enough, by the existence of a small bird whose sole occupation appears to be probing the rhino's thick hide for the ticks and other vicious insects that inhabit it. "Ox-birds," or "beef-eaters," these small birds are popularly called. It is they who, unknown to the rhino, reveal his whereabouts to the hunter by their occasional flights and sharp cries.

Strategy called for

Strength is not sufficient when dealing with a ton and more of rhino as nimble on his feet as many animals a twentieth part his weight, and as fierce as they come. Strategy is called for; strategy and a net woven of immensely strong rope or liana. This net is laid over the tops of a series of loosely planted stakes in such a way that it hangs over a track known to be in regular use by rhino on their way down to a drinking-place. The hunter can only operate if he has a team of "boys" very highly trained to work in harmony with one another and at his orders; and—often even more difficult—to work in silence.

After perhaps hours, or even nights, of watching, they hear the rhino approaching, his vast bulk swaying on his squat legs, his vicious snout swaying from side to side. In the darkness, or half-light, the huge net must be lowered so that one mesh of it catches on the rhino's horn. As it lurches forward, it draws the rest of the net off the stakes. The sides fall to the ground and become entangled with its feet.

The rhino, suspicious and irritable, throws its weight about; and in so doing, exactly like a fly struggling in a corner of a spider's web, draws the meshes closer about it, entangling itself further with every angry lurch. Eventually even its great strength is exhausted by its unavailing struggle, and it relaxes. And that, for the rhino, is the beginning of the end.

Hobbled and safe

The hunter and his "boys" close in. The stakes, young trees, stout branches, long, tough lianas, and native cunning all combine to construct around the rhino in its net, a close-set corral. Someone skilfully throws a noose of rope round its forefeet, its hind feet, and pulls the noose tight. Once firmly hobbled, the rhino is safe—as safe as any beast weighing over a ton and viciously angry at its capture can be expected to be.

Such a creature was ordered once by the famous New York Zoo; but this was to be a speci-

Continued on page 13

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If you like cats, you will love this collection of stories about the antics of a mischievous kitten called Mary Ann. With lovely pictures drawn from life.

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ESPIONAGE IN ESTONIA

Rockets on Moon Island, by Ronald Seth (Geoffrey Bles, 10s. 6d.)

CAPTAIN BRIAN GRANT has had many a tough assignment during his Secret Service career. But this is the toughest of all. He has been ordered to get information about the rocket sites set up by the Russians in Estonia. Even if able to enter Estonia, which is guarded like a fortress, what chance has he against the ruthless efficiency of the Russian secret service?

From them he can expect no mercy, other than the mercy which death brings to a tortured and broken man. But the mission has to go on.

The hopes and fears of this brave man are vividly described in this enthralling story for the older boy.

WILD PONY

Chúcaro, by Francis Kalnay (Macmillan, 12s. 6d.)

CHÚCARO is the name of a wild pony roaming the vast plains of Argentina. His freedom ends when he is spotted by 12-year-old Pedro, who fetches his cowboy friend, Juan, to catch the beautiful creature for him. But Armando, the ranch-owner's spoilt son, wants the captive, and Juan could lose his job if he refused to hand him over. However, Chúcaro himself decides who shall be his owner. This is an appealing yarn by an author well acquainted with life on the Argentine Pampa.

BACKWARDS IN TIME

Argle's Oracle, by M. Pardoe (Routledge and Kegan Paul, 10s. 6d.)

THE Macalister youngsters, as many readers know, occasionally have the strange experience of finding themselves living in the past. This time they are in the Greece of 415 B.C.

The airliner taking them to their parents in Cyprus, and a Classics master to Athens for a holiday, crashes in the Gulf of Corinth. All four get ashore on an emergency raft, and begin to look for a taxi or a telephone. Instead they come upon Delphi in all its ancient glory, and a crowd of men in linen tunics speaking classical Greek. The author has a detailed knowledge of life in Attica at this period, and gives us an absorbing account of the impression it would make on modern children.

BRAVE NEW LIFE IN THE PROMISED LAND

To Build a Land, by Sally Watson (Hutchinson, 10s. 6d.)

THIS is an unusual and stirring book about a pair of Italian-Jewish children, homeless after the war among the bombed buildings of Naples. By chance they get in touch with an organisation prepared to take them to Palestine, and with other child unfortunates they reach a community centre at Tel Aviv. There they have to adapt themselves to a new, exciting and often dangerous life.

This is a story of the kind of experience which thousands of children have been through in the last few years. It is a story of courage and of faith.

STRANGE TALES FROM FAR AWAY

New Guinea Folk Tales, by Brenda Hughes (Harrap, 6s.)

NEW GUINEA, the big island separated from Australia by the Torres Strait, is a far-away land of which we hear little. But we ought to hear more, for the folk who live there are evidently good story-tellers.

The author of this book, who knows them well, has here collected sixteen of their traditional



tales, full of the life of this tropical isle, its plants and its animals, and with a distinct local flavour of their own. They also give us a picture of the kind of people who made them up—people who evidently have a high standard of conduct.

The little picture reproduced here is an illustration (by Michael Brett) to the story entitled Why the Opossums Hate Dogs.

THE LUCK OF THE CRYSTAL CUP

The Silver Secret, by Margaret Tennyson (Warne, 9s. 6d.)

THE luck of the ancient Calverley family is supposed to be bound up with a crystal cup, lost in Cromwell's time. Certainly their fortunes had declined since then, and now the estate is in danger of being sold for a factory site. Tobin Calverley hopes to avert the tragedy by finding the Crystal Cup, and the search leads him and his young friends to some exciting discoveries. Eventually, the family fortunes are restored—but not quite in the way Tobin had expected.

LIFE WITH THE LOBSTERMEN

Island in the Bay, by Dorothy Simpson (Warne, 9s. 6d.)

IT is a rugged, hard life for the lobstermen and their families who live on Lee's Island, off the coast of Maine, in America. But 16-year-old Linn Swenson loves it—the setting of the lobster traps, the catching of herring bait by luring them to the surface with a flaming torch, the sing-songs, and the comradeship. So when an enemy threatens to drive him from the island, Linn is determined not to give in without a tough struggle.

FOR YOUNG PHILATELISTS

Stamps and Ships, by James Watson (Faber, 12s. 6d.)

THIS delightful book concerns stamps on which ships of many kinds are pictured. There are stamps depicting the flimsy, basketwork boats of Babylonia and the robust longboats of the Vikings; the ships of Elizabeth I, and of the time of our own Queen Elizabeth; there are stamps recalling the great days of exploration and of discovery. Each chapter is concerned with particular types of craft, and gives many enthralling stories of the vessels and the men who used them. Finally, there is the Index, which lists all the important ships which have been pictured on stamps—a most valuable guide to the keen collector.

ESKIMO GIRL

Wild Like the Foxes, by Anauta (Dobson, 10s. 6d.)

LABRADOR and its people are brought vividly to life in this book, which is an Eskimo woman's account of her mother's girlhood.

Alea was only ten when she lost her own mother. Her father and brother were the only ones left to care for her and they taught her how to become an expert trapper and hunter. Then, fearing that she would become "wild like the foxes" (Eskimo for a tomboy), her father took her to England to be educated. Her adventures there and in her own bleak homeland, make this a fine true-life story.

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NEW SPRING BOOKS

FOUNDERS OF SAN FRANCISCO

Big Ride, by Dorothy Ward Erskine (Bell, 11s. 6d.)

IN 1775 a party of 250 people, nearly half of them children, left their homes in the heart of Mexico to ride north with 1000 head of cattle to found the city of San Francisco in California. Their way lay across deserts and mountains in country haunted by warlike Indians. The story of how they overcame many perils before reaching journey's end is one of the epics of American history.

Diaries kept by some of the trekkers have provided the facts on which this enthralling yarn is based.

OLD FAVOURITE

Biggles in Mexico, by Captain W. E. Johns (Brockhampton Press, 8s. 6d.)

BIGGLES needs no introduction. A host of readers in several countries know they can depend on this daring young man for new thrills. This time he takes us to the Mexican desert, where the giant cacti point their thick arms to the brazen sky. Biggles and his pal Ginger cross this sun-baked wilderness, unarmed, and reach a dusty, out-of-the-way village where a gang of clever and ruthless diamond thieves are believed to be hiding.

Captain W. E. Johns believes in giving excitement from the first paragraph to the last, and he certainly provides it in this gripping yarn.

RED MAN v WHITE

Revolt in the West, by Edward McCourt (Macmillan, 12s. 6d.)

THE year is 1884, following a long period of peace between white settler and the native Red Indian of Canada. The Métis tribe, alarmed because they believe that the Canadian Government is going to rob them of their lands, ask for the help of Louis Riel. Champion of their cause in the past, and exiled as a result, Louis Riel comes



back; and soon the whole North-West area is ripe for rebellion, with unfriendly Red Indian tribes eager to join in any battle against the Whites. There is violence and bloodshed, and with Government forces being called in to quell the rebellion, there is the possibility of a full-scale war, likely to interfere with Canada's progress as a nation.

One of the fine Great Stories of Canada series, this book is by an author who grew up on a homestead close to the scene of one of the battles he describes. It is finely illustrated by Jack Ferguson.

STORY OF THE SUBMARINE

Submarines, by Rear Admiral G. P. Thomson (Muller, 9s. 6d.)

THE year of the submarine's birth may be regarded, for practical purposes, as 1776. In that year an American named David Bushnell built a wooden, egg-shaped craft which actually sunk an enemy ship during the War of Independence.

It was a far cry from the American atomic-powered Nautilus which can travel for thousands of miles under water at a speed of about 20 knots.

In clear and highly-readable fashion, with many explanatory diagrams, Admiral Thomson describes the development of the submarine from its beginnings to the present day. It is a book that should interest every boy in our island home.

ENGLAND'S GREAT PROTECTOR

Oliver Cromwell, by S. Reed Brett (A. & C. Black, 6s. 6d.)

IF ever there was an Englishman who merited the title of Strong Man it was Oliver Cromwell, statesman and soldier. This strength seems to have come from the very soil for he was a countryman through and through.

Besides a concise account of the chief events of Oliver's life, the author provides a most valuable chapter at the end called Success and Failure, which sums up for us Cromwell's achievements. The latter, at first sight, seem to have been short-lived. His commonwealth was succeeded by the restoration of the monarchy; the different kinds of parliament he tried were failures: and the wonderful regular army he built up was disbanded. Yet, as the author shows us, his work did indeed bring lasting benefit to his country.

IRISH JAUNT

We Go To Ireland, by Sylvia Lovat Corbridge (Harrap, 9s. 6d.)

IN these days of easy travel it is just as well to remember the attractions on our own doorstep before we journey to more distant regions. Ireland, for instance, is close and delightful, and the happiest introduction to it is given in this entertaining little book, latest in the We Go series.

It follows the adventures of two 13-year-old twins, Pat and Christina, while on holiday with their sister near Dublin. They make a delightful tour of the country, learning all sorts of odds and ends about its life both in the romantic past and the busy present. They visit the Hill of Tara, the Harland & Wolff shipbuilding yards in Belfast, the lovely lakes of Killarney and, of course, the famous Blarney Castle.

Crammed with information, the whole story is told in an amusing and fast-moving way likely to set a young traveller's feet itching to be off.

CLIMBING IN SAFETY

Teach Yourself Mountain Climbing, by Godfrey Francis (English Universities Press, 7s. 6d.)

MOUNTAINEERING is one of the most thrilling of sports, but it must be properly studied.

The author stresses the fact that no one should go climbing alone. Also that a beginner must start with hill-walking and scrambling before venturing on to more difficult climbs.

But there is much that can be learnt before a newcomer ever attempts his first climb, and this book is of great help to would-be mountaineers. It progresses from chapters on equipment and first steps on rock and on snow and ice to chapters that most readers will have to wait for some years to appreciate—on alpine climbing and techniques.

IN PURSUIT OF THE SLAVERS

Red Sea Patrol, by Jim Keddell (Phoenix House, 12s. 6d.)

SLAVE-TRADING has long been illegal but when Ben Brockleby and his father visit the abandoned island of Dahrsan in the Red Sea they find in that spot at any rate there is still a demand for these poor creatures forcibly taken from their homes and made to work in a secret silver mine.

The two of them then join forces with Captain Wolfram of the Ethiopian Navy—and the thrills come thick and fast as one desperate adventure follows another.

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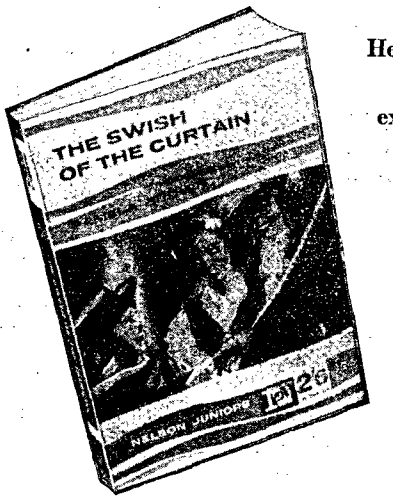
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A GLIMPSE OF THE BLIND

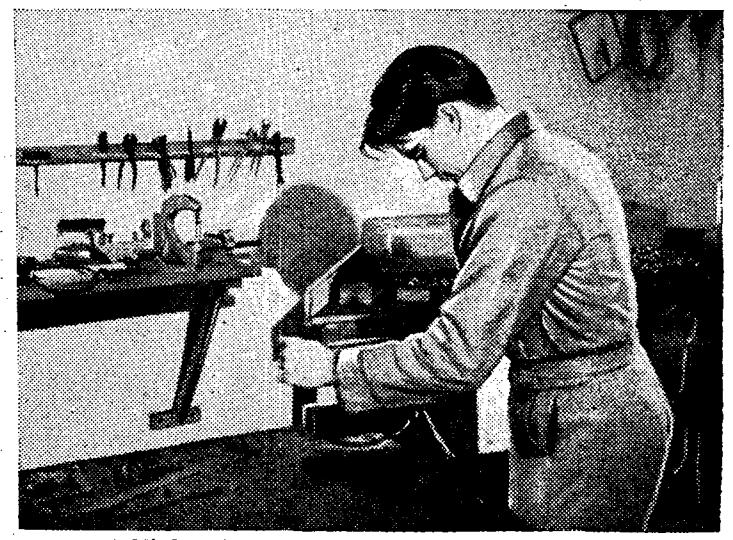
A great deal of noble work goes on in this world, week after week, unknown to most of us. There is, for instance, the unceasing work of the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

We have been reminded of this wonderful job by a new film called Unseen Horizons.

It is a beautifully-produced picture, matter-of-fact and yet highly moving, and it has been made to show us all what grand opportunities are offered, nowadays, to blind boys and girls.

It is a film which demonstrates, in a simple and straightforward way, how young people who are without sight can live full and useful lives. It is a film, too, which tells of victory over misfortune, triumph over depression, and renewed hope for all who have loved ones who are blind.

Unseen Horizons unfolds the working of the various schools which cater for blind children from a very tender age. It shows us activities at the Sunshine Home Nursery Schools, and at the Secondary and Technical and Commercial Schools where older youngsters prepare to compete on almost level terms with their more fortunate brothers and sisters who are sighted.



A blind student at work in the engineering workshop

This film glimpse of what they can learn to do, from gymnastics to practical engineering, is at once a revelation and an inspiration.

Copies of the film (16 m.m.) can be borrowed (free) from the Appeals Secretary, Royal National Institute for the Blind, 224 Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

NEW SEASON'S BOOKS

Continued from page 11

MAN WHO FOUND THE NEW WORLD

The Real Book of Columbus, by Irving Block (Dobson, 10s. 6d.)

HISTORY has no stranger story than that of Christopher Columbus, the Italian navigator who discovered America. Not that Columbus knew he had found The New World—he thought at first he had reached an island off Japan, for he believed he could reach Asia by sailing westward. Seeing naked savages, he then assumed that they were Indians—and to this day that group of islands is known as the West Indies.

Columbus made four journeys to the New World but failed to find the treasure of the East which he was seeking. Eventually he returned home in disgrace to die a pauper's death, alone and neglected. Even on his deathbed he still did not realise that he had found America.

This is the story of a man whose life was dedicated to a single purpose, and a stirring story it is!

BACK INTO THE PAST

The Time Garden, by Edward Eager (Macmillan, 12s. 6d.)

BRIMFUL of fun, this is a story about three American children who find a talking toad in a bank of thyme. Mr. Toad tells them that if they crush the herb and sniff it, interesting things may happen. And he is right! They find themselves back in the 18th century, and they escape the Indians' scalping knives only by sniffing the thyme they have brought with them. Their next venture into the past involves them in helping runaway slaves.

When they visit Elizabethan London, Sir Walter Raleigh assures the Queen that they cannot be Indians, as they claim, because they wear no feathers. Francis Bacon suggests that they are Spanish spies. It is all good fun.

CLIMBING THE PEAK OF SUCCESS

Banner in the Sky, by James Ramsey Ullman (Collins, 10s. 6d.)

RUDI MATT'S eyes and heart are turned to the mountains. His one aim in life is to emulate his father and become the best guide in the district. He sees himself helping an expedition to conquer the Citadel, that mighty unconquered peak on which his father had died. But dreams are one thing, life another, as he finds when confronted by a "mountain" of crockery which he must wash up in the kitchen of the hotel in which he works.

But then, out on the mountain, Rudi saves the life of Captain Winter, the great English climber, and this puts him on the path to his ambition.

This is a new edition, prepared for young readers, of J. R. Ullman's thrilling story based on the conquering of the mighty Matterhorn by Edward Whymper in 1865.

OTHER RECOMMENDED BOOKS

RICHES FROM THE EARTH—The story of our mineral resources, by Carroll Lane Fenton and Mildred Adams Fenton (Dobson, 10s. 6d.)

MAXWELL KNIGHT REPLIES—225 Natural History questions answered; illustrated by Rona Cloy (Routledge and Kegan Paul, 12s. 6d.)

THE LAND AND PEOPLE OF JAPAN, by Donald Richie (A and C. Black, 7s. 6d.)

THE REAL BOOK OF GOLD—Its story from ancient times to the present day, by Harold Coy (Dobson, 10s. 6d.)

WOODWORK STEP BY STEP—A practical guide for the amateur, by Richard Irving (Warne, 12s. 6d.)

MAGIC WHEREVER YOU ARE—Simple tricks for young enthusiasts, by Bill Severn (Faber, 12s. 6d.)

SHIPS AND SHIPBUILDING, by J. A. Hind (Temple Press, 10s. 6d.)

CHUCARO

Wild Pony of the Pampa

Francis Kalnay

A fast-moving tale of the vast Argentine Pampa and those who live on it. *Illustrated 12s 6d*

OCCUPATION FOR KAY

Nancy Martin

In her latest fascinating career novel, Nancy Martin describes the training of an occupational therapist. *Illustrated 9s*

THE TIME GARDEN

Edward Eager



Another delightful story of magic and adventure, with a historical aspect.

Illustrations by N.M. Bodecker 12s 6d

MIST OVER ATHELNEY

Geoffrey Trease

Adventure in the days of King Alfred. "Another stirring historical story by Geoffrey Trease . . . To read Mr. Trease is to live in that primitive, dangerous Britain."—*Eastern Daily Press.* *Illustrated 13s 6d*

THORVALD'S PLAN

Alison Cross

"Woven into an exciting tale is much information about life and customs in Norway." — *British Weekly.* *Illustrated 10s 6d*

MACMILLAN

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THE WORLD OF STAMPS

IT is surprising how many young collectors are reluctant to buy packets of stamps for fear that they may contain a large number of forgeries. But, in fact, it is seldom that forgeries come the way of the ordinary collector.

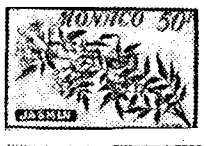
Unscrupulous individuals make forgeries of stamps for two reasons. Some reproduce rare old issues to sell at bargain prices to unsuspecting collectors with more money than philatelic knowledge. Those who can resist the temptation to buy "fine old stamps" at a fraction of their normal prices are not likely to be caught in this way.

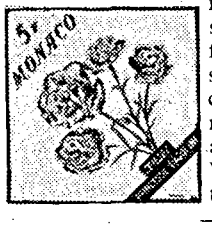
Other forgers copy modern stamps simply to defraud the postal authorities. An example of this occurred not long ago in West



Germany. Forgeries of the red 20-pfennig stamp, showing the Brandenburg Gate, in Berlin, were found in circulation. They can easily be recognised by their rough appearance and the uneven perforations, but many collectors who would like a sample for their collections have been disappointed. The German authorities confiscated all the forgeries they could find, and no ordinary packet of stamps is likely to contain one.

MONACO is preparing a number of attractive stamps for issue during May. Among them is a series of nine flower stamps. Three of these are in extra-large size and the flowers represented include carnations, jasmine, roses, and lavender. What a pity that each stamp cannot be impregnated with the appropriate scent!





Two other series will, rather surprisingly, mark events already past, the opening of the Unesco building in Paris and the Monte Carlo Automobile Rally. Monaco evidently believes that stamp issues are "Better late than never."

AT the present time the Saar, the important coal and steel-producing region which lies between France and Germany, uses French currency although it is part of the German Federal Republic. This is because the Saar was occupied by French troops after the Second World War. The ordinary stamps now on sale have the same design as West German issues, a portrait of President Heuss, but their face value is expressed in francs.



The two countries have agreed that at the end of this year the Saar shall be completely absorbed into Germany, and German currency, pfennigs and marks, will be used there. When this happens



the stamps of the Saar will have to be changed.

Because of their bright and interesting designs, Saar issues are already very popular with collectors. One recent charity series showed miners at work, while steel-making and engineering are represented on other issues. A collection of these Saar stamps not only makes an attractive display but will certainly increase in value as time goes by.

C. W. HILL

LIVING DANGEROUSLY

Continued from page 9

men known to be very rare: the great single-horned, armour-plated Indian rhino. It is so rare that for long it has been considered the exclusive property of the maharajahs; it was known to exist in very small numbers in a part of Nepal, at the foot of the Himalayas.

The big-game hunter commissioned to capture this almost fabulous beast had to fit out a very elaborate expedition. A whole brigade of trained elephants, complete with their mahouts, was the spectacular part of the expedition.

There were porters, coolies, skilled trackers, lorry-loads and mule-loads of equipment of all sorts, including cages and nets and ropes and stakes and digging gear.

For, having accepted this commission, the hunter had taken on a few other ones as well: tigers, orang-utangs, snow leopards, antelopes, monkeys of many species, and other examples of exotic wild life.

So valuable was the cargo of wild animals he expected to capture that he engaged a small army of tough little Ghurka soldiers to guard the convoy on its return journey. The prize of the whole expedition proved to be not one but two of the famous rhino, each of which weighed over two-and-a-half tons!

Another instalment of The Zoo Supplier will appear next week.

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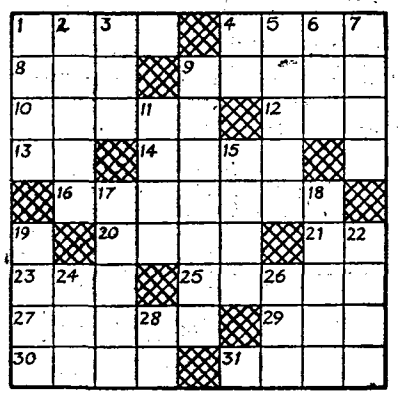
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PUZZLE PARADE



Answer next week

Crossword Puzzle

READING ACROSS. 1 The man in charge ! 4 Not shut. 8 Large monkey. 9 Angry. 10 To gain knowledge. 12 Frozen water. 13 Doctor. 14 You cook in it. 16 Agrees. 20 Drove of cattle. 21 Evangelical Union. 23 Wither. 25 Former rulers of Russia. 27 Clothing. 29 Play billiards with it. 30 Exhausts. 31 Borders of a piece of cloth.

READING DOWN. 1 Without hair. 2 Musical drama. 3 Ocean. 4 Alternative. 5 To decorate. 6 Etcetera. 7 Want. 9 Turns upside down. 11 Flower. 15 Finishes. 17 They provide wool. 18 Used for inoculations. 19 Totals. 22 Applications. 24 Irish Republican Army. 26 The top card. 28 Steamship.

EVERLASTING

The three letters given are in the middle of a nine-letter word which means that which cannot be blotted out or erased. *What is the word?*

———ELI———

PARTS OF AN ANIMAL

Below are the jumbled names of something peculiar to certain animals. When you have found the names, can you link each with the animal concerned?

SKUT; rental; phum; cuts; cupho.

WORK THIS OUT

Rearrange the letters in the following sentence to form three different professions.

CREW carried lot to yacht.

MIXED CATCH

Each clue suggests the name of a fish and of another creature, the jumbled letters of which can be found in that name.

FISH that contains a domestic animal.
Fish that contains a tree.
Fish that contains a rodent.
Fish that contains a domestic bird.
Fish that contains a wild animal.
Sea fish that contains a river fish.

NEW NAMES FOR OLD

Four famous cities were once known by the names given here. Do you know them?

NEW AMSTERDAM; Constantinople; Saint Petersburg; Christiania.

FIND THESE BIRDS

The answer to each clue will give the name of a bird.

DOG'S greeting.
Flinch or lose heart.
Golden coloured, plus a tool used by a carpenter.
Drink liquid.
Very fast.

JUST ABBREVIATIONS

THE square contains only four different letters. How many three-letter abbreviations can you make from the square? You can move in any direction, even backwards.

A	A	A
C	B	B
A	C	F

C N Competition Corner

BIG EASTER EGGS TO BE WON!

WHO'S for a special Easter treat? FIVE extra big Easter Eggs, packed with delicious chocolates, are waiting as prizes in this week's C N Competition. There are ten other prizes, too, and all boys and girls under 17 living in Great Britain, Ireland, and the Channel Islands are invited to enter—*free* !

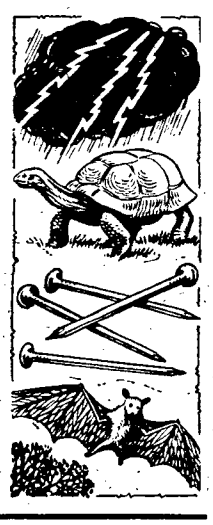
All you have to do is complete the eight well-known sayings below by adding the appropriate word to each phrase. The little pictures in the panels give you clues. For example, BONE provides the first answer. When you have completed the remaining seven, write all eight answers in a neat, numbered list on a postcard. Add your full name, age, and address, ask a parent or guardian to sign the entry as your own unaided work, then post the card to:

C N Competition No. 21,
3 Pilgrim Street, London, E.C.4 (Comp.),

to arrive not later than Friday, March 20, an early closing date so that the prizes can be sent off in good time for Easter.

Easter Eggs will be awarded to the five readers who send in the neatest, correct entries, with handwriting according to age taken into account. Five-shillings Postal Orders for ten runners-up. The Editor's decision is final.





1. AS DRY AS A.....
2. AS SLOW AS A.....
3. AS LIGHT AS A.....
4. AS RED AS A.....
5. AS WISE AS AN.....
6. AS BLIND AS A.....
7. AS HARD AS.....
8. AS QUICK AS.....

BILLY CAMPS IN

THE sound of whooping and Indian war-cries brought Billy to the back door. There was Paul dressed in an Indian costume, waving a tomahawk, and doing a war-dance.

"Like my suit?" he said. "An uncle of mine has just sent it."

Billy thought he looked jolly fine in it. "What about a game?" he asked. "I'll get my tent and we'll pitch it in the garden."

He quickly fetched his tent from his room and the two boys set about fixing it on the lawn.

They were nearly finished when Mummy spotted them through the window. "Oh, no you don't," she called. "I'm not having you sitting on the damp ground and catching colds. Why don't you play indoors?"

"Whoever heard of Indians indoors?" grumbled Billy to himself.

But it had given him an idea.

Some time later the front door bell rang and Mummy went to admit some of her friends who were coming to tea.

As she showed them into the front room they suddenly stopped. "I don't think we had better have tea on *that* table," said one of them.

Mummy pushed her way past. There was the table upside down with a sheet spread over it. On the floor around it were a pile of cups and saucers and plates. Then the faces of two "Red Indians" appeared under the sheet.

"Oh oh," said one of them. "The Palefaces are attacking us. Run for it!"

But they had to run past Mummy—and the Red Indians' faces were even redder when she had finished with them, in spite of their protests that they were chieftains!

"Next time your uncle sends a present," said Billy as they made their way upstairs, "make sure it's a book. We can't get into trouble if we're reading."

LUCKY DIP

MIDNIGHT

AT midnight when the owls cry out,
And the yellow moon is high,
And mankind is asleep in bed,
'Tis when the witches fly.
When the wind howls through the trees,
And evil things are nigh;
They climb upon their broomsticks strong
And mount into the sky.
But when the sun begins to rise.
The witches all take fright;
And hide within their grim dark dens
Until another night.

A GOOD TRICK

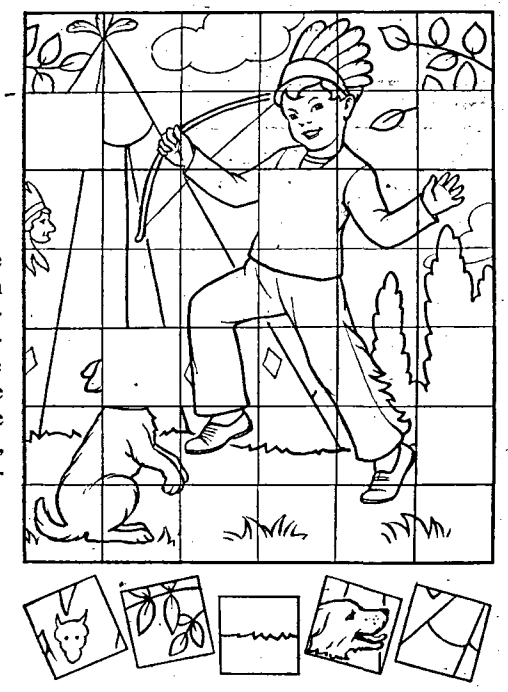
HERE is a trick which is worth trying on your friends at the next party.

Get a tumbler and then line it, almost to the top, with a dark material. Fill the glass with water as far as the top of the material, and it will appear that the glass contains ink. Then take the glass into the room where your friends are and announce that you will turn the ink into water.

Set the glass on the table and cover it with a handkerchief. The trick is to make sure that you grip the material in the glass as you remove the handkerchief—to show a glass of clear water.

A RED INDIAN AND HIS DOG

PASTE the five little illustrations in their correct positions in the big picture. When you have done so, paste the drawing onto a piece of card, allow to dry, then colour the picture.



SAYINGS ABOUT PROMISES

A PROMISE attended to is a debt settled.
A promise delayed is justice deferred.
All promises are either broken or kept.
Better deny at once than promise long.
Men apt to promise are apt to forget.

HOWLER

A CIRCLE is a round line without a joint.

JUST A FEW WORDS

HERE is an entertaining way to increase your knowledge of words. Each numbered sentence below is followed by three answers or comments you might make; but, in each case, only one is correct and shows that you have understood the meaning of the word in italics. To answer five or six correctly is very good.

Answers are given in column 5

1. A *contentious* discussion took place.
 A—A quarrelsome dispute.
 B—Satisfactory agreement reached.
 C—Had vital significance.

2. We must make *retrenchments*.
 A—Refresh our memories.
 B—Take our revenge.
 C—Cut down expenses.

3. Do not be *obtuse*.
 A—Dull-witted.
 B—Stubbornly determined.
 C—Pushing yourself forward.

4. Her behaviour was *execrable*.
 A—An example worth copying.
 B—Easy to forgive.
 C—Abominable.

5. The army made an *insidious* attack.
 A—With stealthy cunning.
 B—With impudent daring.
 C—A complete failure.

6. She commented on the matter *volubly*.
 A—With guarded caution.
 B—Of her own free will.
 C—Too much to say for herself.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES

Everlasting. Indelible. **New names for old.** New York; Istanbul; Leningrad; Oslo. **Work this out.** Architect; lawyer; doctor. **Mixed catch.** Gudgeon-dog; pilchard-larch; sprat-rat; tench-hen; bream-bear; turbot-trout. **Parts of an animal.** Elephant's tusk; stag's antler; camel's hump; rabbit's scut; kangaroo's pouch. **Find these birds.** Wagtail; quail; yellowhammer; swallow; swift. **Just abbreviations.** AAA—Amateur Athletics Association; ABA—Amateur Boxing Association; ABC—Associated British Cinemas; ACA—Associate of the Institute of Chartered Accountants; BBC—British Broadcasting Corporation; FBA—Fellow of the British Academy; FCA—Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants.

JUST A FEW WORDS

1. A Contentious means involving argument, dispute, and difference of opinion. (From Latin *contentio*, strife, dispute.)
2. C Retrenchment is cutting down, particularly reducing expenses; economy. (From French *retranchement*—cutting short.)
3. A Obtuse means dull witted: rather slow to take things in. (From Latin *obtusus*, blunted.)
4. C Execrable means detestable; fit to be cursed. (From Latin *exsecratum*, cursed.)
5. A Insidious means crafty; advancing stealthily. (From Latin *insidiae*, an ambush.)
6. C Volubly means with a great flow of words. (From Latin *volubilis*, spinning round.)

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FREE in LYONS TEA

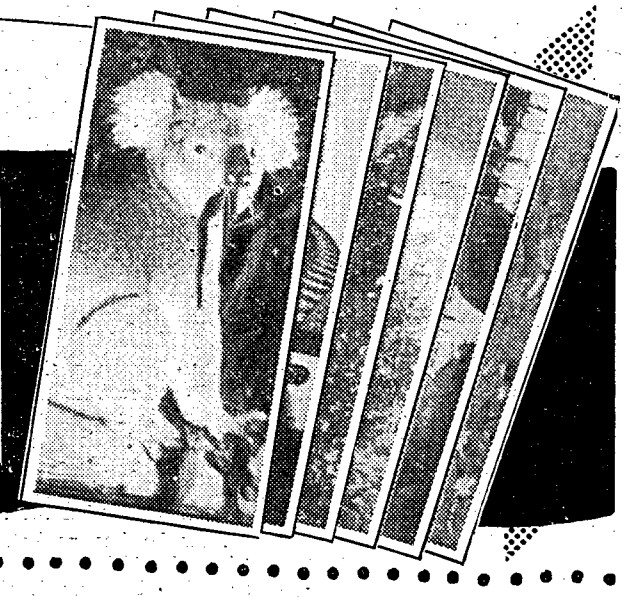
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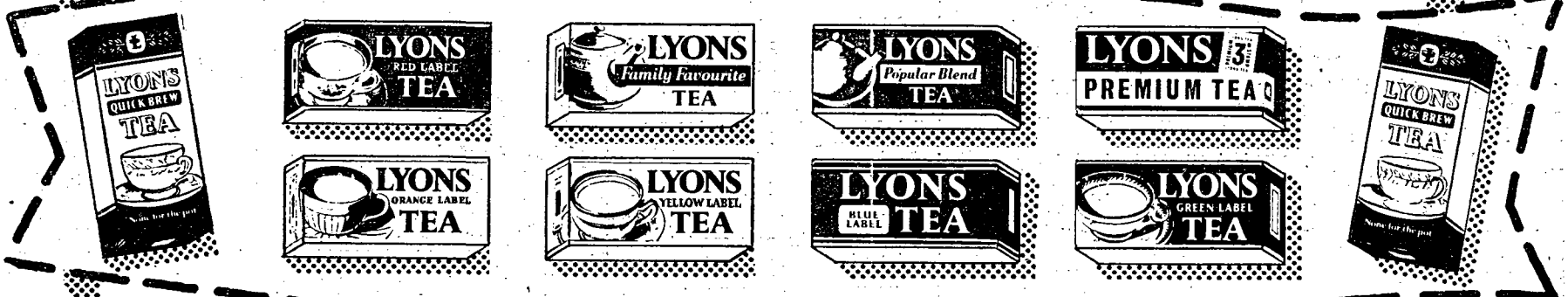
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Some lucky boy and girl will visit Australia during the Christmas holidays of 1959. They will be the winners of an exciting National Essay Project Competition, and *the whole visit is being arranged officially by the Australian Government.* An Entry Form for this Australian Project Competition is in the Album . . . So get yours today!



Tell mother now about these wonderful Colour Cards!

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POPULAR BASKETBALL

OUR recent news of the growth of basketball throughout the world brings information about the rapid development of the game in English schools.

It was in Derby, about six years ago, that schools basketball made its first real progress. Now two divisions, comprising eleven schools, compete in league competitions, and next year it is hoped to form a third division with other schools in the district.

But basketball is flourishing in other centres, too. Last year saw the formation of the English Schools Basketball Association, and eight areas entered a knock-out competition in which Middlesex Boys beat Derby in the final. This year, even more districts have competed for the national championships, which now cover Derby, Birmingham, Liverpool, Oxford, Manchester, London, Middlesex, Hertfordshire, Plymouth, Devon, Bristol, Rotherham, Kidderminster, and Wolverhampton.

This year a senior national competition for boys of 15 to 18 years of age has been introduced, and the semi-finals and final of this tournament will be played at the Birmingham Athletic Institute on Saturday. The Derby Schools Basketball Association have also arranged a series of inter-town matches for Under-15 and Under-18 teams.

It seems that basketball may soon hold the same interest in the schools as organised soccer and rugby.

Two speedy Elliotts



Herb Elliott (left) and his brother Laurie seen at the Victorian championships held at Melbourne. Laurie won the mile event.

Goodwill stumps

WHEN Mr. Frank Blissett arrived in Melbourne the other day he carried in his baggage a set of cricket stumps. Mr. Blissett, assistant groundsman of the Kent County Cricket Club for 28 years, has been appointed head groundsman to the Fitzroy Cricket Club in Melbourne, and the stumps were a goodwill gift from one club to the other.

Balancing trick

DAVID BURNSIDE, the 19-year-old West Bromwich Albion inside-forward, is not only a fine footballer but he is also a brilliant ball juggler. He can keep a ball bouncing on knee, instep, and head almost indefinitely.

Now he has perfected a new trick. He flicks the ball on to his shoulder, balances it there, and makes for goal. Once he is in a position to shoot, he drops the ball and lets fly.

What will the poor ref say if David introduces his trick into a match? There is certainly nothing in the rules about carrying a ball on the shoulder.

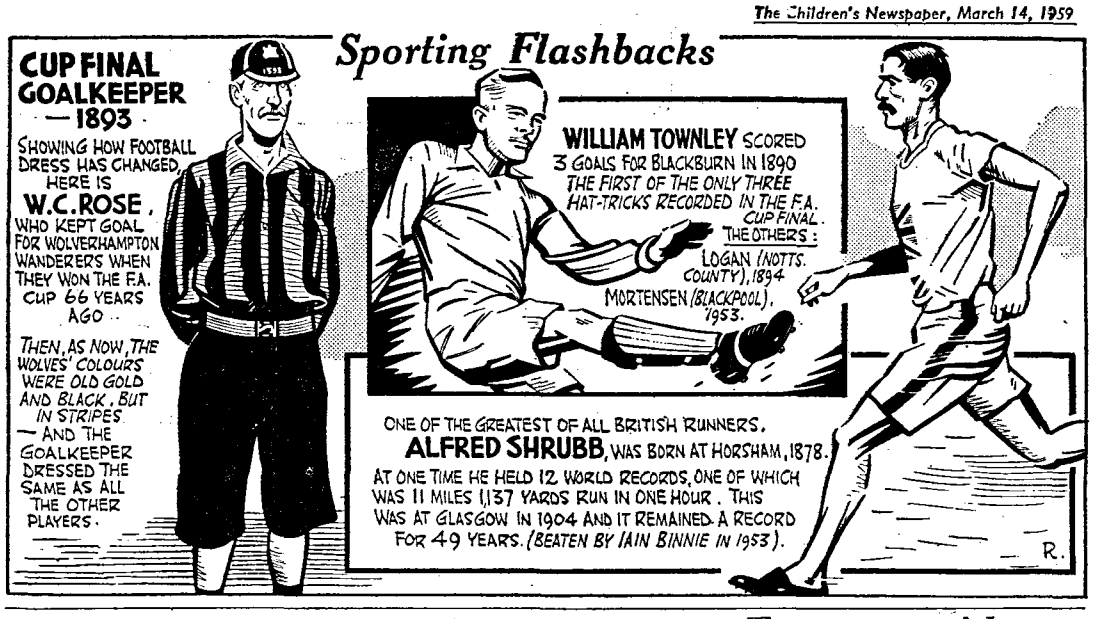
Following father

ANOTHER young footballer making his name in the game is 18-year-old David Bacuzzi, whose father, Joe Bacuzzi, played for England during his long years of service with Fulham, where he is now an assistant trainer-coach.

David started his career in North London schoolboy football, and could have signed for Fulham, but he joined Eastbourne United, then Arsenal.

David has already played for England's Youth team, and higher honours are predicted for him.

Sporting Flashbacks



These sports are dangerous

WHICH are the most dangerous sports? It would be difficult to find any two people in agreement on the subject. But in America the National Board of Insurance Underwriters have recently issued a list of what they consider the most hazardous sports played in that country.

Topping the list is American football, which must surely be just about the toughest game in the world. It is similar to our own rugby but with much more tackling.

Surprisingly enough, polo is in second position, with wrestling and lacrosse, the game first played by the Red Indians, in the next two positions.

Soccer and rowing come next, followed by boxing, basketball, ice-hockey, and touch football, a game similar to rugby but with no tackling.

Hockey goalkeeper



Marilyn Riley of London University, ready for any attack on her goal.

New badges for Cheshire athletes

TWO Northwich schoolmasters have designed Cheshire crests for the All-England Schools' Athletics Association Championships, to be held in the town in July.

One is a design which will be worn by the 2000 competitors for admission and identification purposes. A blue outer circle bears the words: Schools' Athletics Association Championships, Northwich, 1959, and inside a green shield is the yellow sheaf of Cheshire.

The other will be carried by banner at the head of the 60-strong Cheshire contingent in the spectacular march-past of counties.

Ten years without a single win

CARDIFF Arms Park, one of the world's most famous rugby grounds, is the scene of Saturday's match between Wales and Ireland.

These old Rugby Union rivals have met on 61 previous occasions, Wales winning 37 games to 21 by Ireland. Since the war, the Irishmen have gained only one victory on Welsh soil, and that was at Swansea in 1949; and at Cardiff, Ireland have an even worse record—they have not won there since 1932.

Last match of the tour

THE last match of the M.C.C.'s tour starts on Saturday, when the second Test Match against New Zealand opens at Auckland. Four previous Tests have been played there between England and New Zealand, one being won by England and the rest drawn.

That solitary victory was achieved in 1955. In their second innings, New Zealand were dismissed for 26, the lowest total in the history of Test cricket.

Swinging on the ladder

A well equipped gym at school helps Jill Naylor of Aldershot to keep in training. She is All-England Schools Hurdles Champion.



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SPORTS QUIZ

1. In which sport is the Swaythling Cup awarded?
2. How many players make a basketball team?
3. Can you name the captain of the Indian Test cricketers to tour England this summer?
4. Softball is the "baby brother" of what game?
5. Can you name England's goalkeeper in the last eight soccer internationals?
6. Which is the new sport to be introduced in next year's Winter Olympic Games?

1. Table tennis. It is for the men's world team championship. 2. Five. 3. D. K. Gaekwad. 4. Baseball. 5. Colin McDonald of Burnley. 6. Ski-shooting—a combination of cross-country ski-ing and rifle shooting.

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S.L.